

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
LIBRARY EXTENSION PUBLICATION

VOL. VI

OCTOBER, 1939

NO. 1

THE NEW FRONTIER

WILLMARTH W. DRAKE

BASED ON

AMERICAN REGIONALISM

BY

HOWARD W. ODUM AND HARRY E. MOORE



Prepared for study groups
under the auspices of
The American Association of University Women

CHAPEL HILL

MCMXXXIX

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

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*Published six times a year, October, January, April, May, June, and July,
by the University of North Carolina Press. Entered as second-class
matter February 5, 1926, under the act of August 24, 1912.
Chapel Hill, N. C.*

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2. January, 1938. *American Humor*. E. C. Downs & R. B. Downs.
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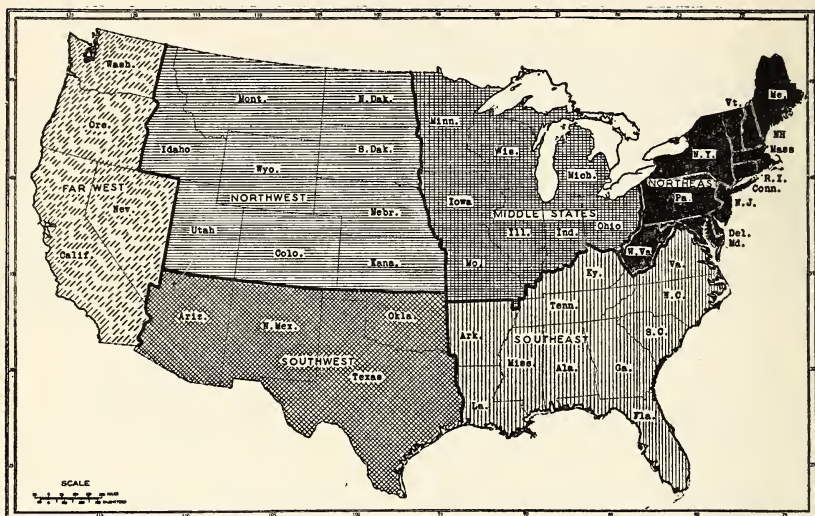
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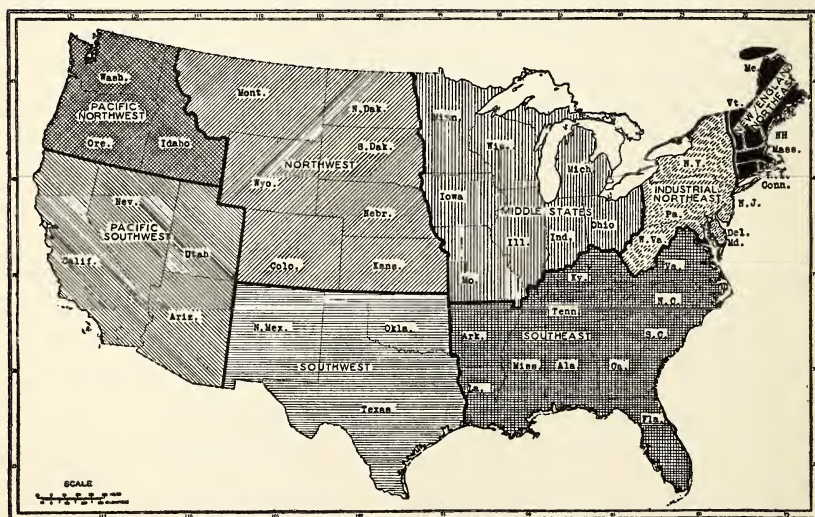
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The Six Major Societal Group-of-States Regions utilized in *American Regionalism* as approximating the largest available degree of homogeneity measured by the largest number of indices available for the largest possible number of purposes.



The Eight Major Societal Group-of-States Regions utilized by the Stanford University group under the direction of Professor Paul R. Hanna, in co-operation with the Progressive Education Association in their program and publication on "The Role of Education in Utilizing Regional Resources."

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This little volume on *The New Frontier* grew logically out of the successful year's program of the Mississippi American Association of University Women in their study of southern regional culture and problems. It was suggested by Mrs. B. L. Parkinson, president, that a similar study of the other regions would not only be profitable, but might very well be popular. The best Americanism, she thought, might be a very realistic regional study of America. Such a prediction seems justified in view of the general recommendation of the plan by the American Association of University Women and their endorsement of the program at the Denver meeting, in June 1939. The popularity of the subject is being enhanced by the increasing interest and activities on the part of many national and local groups.

In an area of study so comprehensive as American regionalism, it must be clear that the problem of selection of sources and readings is a difficult one. The best plan seemed to be to follow the usual mode of the University of North Carolina Library Extension study series and base the volume primarily on *American Regionalism*, which is in itself a sort of comprehensive and encyclopaedic presentation of the whole subject. No special emphasis has been placed upon literary regionalism since a subsequent course is being provided for this.

FOREWORD

This interesting and timely study guide is an outgrowth of a study of southern literature made by branches of the American Association of University Women in Mississippi under the leadership of the Mississippi State Division. After addressing the annual meeting of the Mississippi State Division of the A.A.U.W. in the spring of 1939 and learning of their interest in regionalism, Dr. Howard W. Odum generously consented to plan a more extensive study, including all regions of the country, in a publication of the University of North Carolina, which would be available to the general public as well as to the membership of the A.A.U.W. The Mississippi State Division are to be congratulated upon having enlisted the services of such distinguished authorities as Dr. Odum and his associates, and the groups which will use the study guide are to be congratulated on the availability of such scholarly and stimulating material.

KATHRYN MCHALE,
General Director,
American Association of University Women.

Washington, D. C.,
September 1, 1939.

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If I had to sum up my impressions, I should think in terms of drama; I should choose a parody from Pirandello: 'Six Americas in search of a faith' profound divisions of race and history, with different ways of life and thought.

—SIR WILLIAM BEVERIDGE.

The quotations are from *American Regionalism*, by Odum and Moore. Holt. 1938.

CHAPTER I

THE NATION AND ITS LIVING GEOGRAPHY

A panoramic view of the United States is staggering and bewildering. Here is a nation larger than all of Europe exclusive of Russia; larger than the entire continent of Australia. The state of Texas alone has a greater area than France, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark combined. A citizen of San Francisco is as far from the capital of his own country as a Londoner is from Moscow or Constantinople.

Where else in the world can be found in one country such diversity of physical features or such abundance and variety of natural resources? The United States occupies an enviable geographic location. It has mountains, plains, deserts, rivers, and swamps; and exposure on two oceans. The climate ranges from north temperate to subtropical with an infinite variety of rainfall patterns in all its ranges of temperature. Soil and climate combine to form a great variety of productive farm areas.

No nation with anything like a comparable standard of living has more than two-thirds as large a population. The United States has more people than England, France, and Italy combined. Almost every race and nationality have contributed influential groups to its population.

All these people with their diverse origins, diverse histories, and diverse interests live together in one great political and economic union. They are all confronted with the common problem of how best to use the resources at hand for the greatest common good and how to insure the largest degree of self-determination for the individual consistent with the general welfare of the whole.

The abundance and variety of physical resources does not, however, in itself, insure an ideal or even desirable level of living for all the people. In fact, the conflicts which arise out of this abundance are responsible for many of the inequalities and tensions which beset our social and political existence.

We have conquered the wilderness, so to speak, and have developed our resources to the extent that they support 130,000,000 people in what is conceded to be as high an average standard of living as is to be found over any large area in the world.

Yet we are still far short of our possibilities. Though we boast of the highest average wealth yet it is admitted that from

a fourth to a third of the population are inadequately housed, clothed, and fed. There is congestion of population in cities and isolation in rural districts with consequent social evils. The natural resources are developed more in terms of immediate profits than in terms of their maximum contribution to human welfare and enjoyment. Some mineral deposits are over exploited while others are left untouched. Forest resources are wasted by burning over, failure to replant, and through the destruction of bird refuges. Swamps, which play an essential part in the water cycle, are drained for less important purposes. Improper utilization of land has been responsible for the complete destruction of top soil in spaces larger than some whole countries and even greater areas have been seriously injured.

It may be quite natural that the pioneers in America should have regarded the soil and other resources as inexhaustible both in quantity and quality. But it is also significant that in older cultures the soil is regarded as a sort of trust, the interest on which may be used but the principal of which is to be handed down to posterity undiminished in value.

There is reason to believe that we are at the end of an era of appropriation and wasteful exploitation of resources and that we must rebuild our economy on a sounder basis of technological development.

People generally know little about the geography of the nation. The grade school geography is necessarily very elementary and few people ever learn any more except through casual reading. Americans have failed to realize that society is completely dependent upon natural resources. A general knowledge of resources is doubly important in a democratic nation.

In the limited space of this course little can be done except to point out a few generalizations and to cite some easily available references.

It will be noted from reference to the maps in *American Regionalism*, that the temperature bands run east and west while the rainfall belts run north and south. If we designate the northern half of the United States as 'cold' and the southern half as 'warm' and call the western half 'dry' and the eastern half 'humid', we will get a generalized pattern of four areas. The Southeast will be warm and humid; the Northeast, cold and humid; the Northwest, cold and dry; and the Southwest hot and dry. Now if we make allowances for the effect of the oceans and

the mountains on the coastal areas we will have a very good general idea of the climatic regions as they actually are.

We find that climate affects the soil directly and also affects natural vegetation, which in turn has a great influence on the soil. Maps of the regions reveal a close relation between soil and climate and vegetation.

The soil and climate of a region set certain limits in regard to the agricultural crops and practices. The agriculture in turn influences the general type of society in that region. But the cultural traditions and demands of the society influence the agricultural use of the lands.

From this it may be seen that any attempt at planning a better use of our resources is a very complicated undertaking and that social as well as technical factors have to be reckoned with in the process and the planning.

The problems of conservation and use of physical and human resources are different for each of the major regions of the country. This suggests that any successful program must be worked out region by region. It does not imply any opposition of interests or the possibility of self-sufficiency on the part of any region. On the contrary, it is based on the theory that the interests of the whole nation will be served best by the optimum development of each region in terms of its own resources, and by the maintenance of interregional intercourse and balance.

Is there not then ample justification for the statement that the first of the two great American problems is the continuing adjustment and readaptation of the nation to its geography?

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I SOIL, TOPOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter III.

Natural Regions: Soil, Topography, Climate.

The range of differences in environmental conditions within the United States is wide. It is possible to establish an indefinite number of regions on the basis of soil, topography, and climate.

These natural regions have a subtle but profound influence upon the cultures that continuously evolve within their bounds.

The United States had an exceptionally abundant heritage of mineral resources but this stock has been greatly depleted.

II OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

Behold Our Land, by Russell Lord.

This is not the usual prosaic account of waste but a gripping story of a people and a continent. It fills the reader with mingled awe and hope.

William Allen White, in a special introduction to this volume says:

"I have been interested in the work of Russell Lord for a dozen years. He is one of the few American writers who treats America with what may be called geographical intelligence. He translates the vast topographical differences of the various regions of the United States into human terms. This book explains how we Americans are affected by our environments in different parts of our country, and so develop regional traits. . . . It is partly climate, partly soil, partly social organization, partly blood. So different regions develop different types of citizens."

III A PROGRAM OF CONSERVATION

Rich Land, Poor Land, by Stuart Chase.

A description of the virgin continent stands out when contrasted with the scene today.

A program for conservation of natural resources should be based on a few fundamental principles.

The T.V.A. is an experiment in utilization of resources.

IV A LESSON FROM HISTORY

Deserts on the March, by Paul B. Sears.

The seats of many ancient empires are scenes of ruin and desolation. Not conquering hordes but misuse of land is responsible for this devastation.

For destroying the balance of nature civilization has reaped a reward of floods, erosion, dust storms, and encroaching deserts.

We have seen the beginnings of these forces in America, but it is not too late to do something about our plight.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Brinser, Ayers and Shepard, Ward. *Our Use of the Land*. New York. Harpers. 1939. 303p. Illus.

Discusses natural resources: land, water, wild life, forests, and minerals, and comments on the need for planning.

Brookings Institution. *Mineral Economics*. F. G. Tryon and E. C. Eckel (Eds.). New York. McGraw-Hill. 1932. 311 p.

Lectures on the wise use of minerals by experts in the respective fields.

Hornaday, W. T. *Our Vanishing Wild Life, Its Extermination and Preservation*. New York. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1913. 411 p.

Contains much valuable information on wild life and a plea for conservation.

Morris, H. L. *The Plight of the Bituminous Coal Miner*. Philadelphia. Press of the University of Pennsylvania. 1934. 253 p. Illus.

Mines produce not only minerals but miners as well. Here is a graphic report on the labor and the living conditions in the bituminous coal industry.

Parkins, A. E., and Whitaker, J. R. (Eds.). *Our Natural Resources and Their Conservation*. New York. John Wiley. 650 p. College Ed.

A symposium on natural resources of the United States. Also discusses resource conservation, human conservation, and planning. Van Hise, Charles R., and Havemeyer, Loomis. *Conservation of Our Natural Resources*. New York. MacMillan. 1933. 551 p. Maps. Tables. Illus.

One of the best textbook references on resources and conservation.

PAMPHLETS

Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Agricultural Service Department. *Regional Agricultural Readjustments*. Washington, D. C. Chamber of Commerce of the United States. 1931. 18 p.

A study of the shifting of the cotton, wheat, and corn belts and the consequent readjustments. Shows the need for research and planning in agriculture.

Chamber of Commerce of the United States. *National Forestry Policy*. Washington, D. C. Chamber of Commerce of the United States. 1936. 16 p.

A suggested forest policy based on private control.

United States Department of Agriculture. *A Graphic Summary of Physical Features and Land Utilization in the United States*. By O. E. Baker, Misc. Pub. 260. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1937. 57 p. Maps. Graphs. 10 cents.

Use of land for various purposes shown by maps.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. *To Hold This Soil*. By Russell Lord. Miscellaneous Publication No. 321. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 122 p. Illus. 45 cents.

Effects of erosion and methods for holding soil are illustrated and explained.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. *Little Waters; A Study of Headwater Streams and Other Little Waters, Their Use and Relations to the Land*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. Rev. ed. 1936. 82 p. Illus.

Discusses the causes and general methods of prevention of soil erosion and shows what effect intelligent land use might have upon the people living in a typical valley.

United States Department of Agriculture. Forest Service. *Taming Our Forests*. By Martha Bensley Bruers. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 87 p. Illus. 15 cents.

Entertaining presentation of the forest problem.

PERIODICALS

Church, P. E. "The Temperature of New England." *Monthly Weather Review*. Vol. 63, No. 3 (March, 1935), 93-98.

A good source on climatic regions of the United States and the underlying causes of climatic differences.

Renner, George T. "Education and the Conservation of Resources." *The Social Frontier*. Vol. 5, No. 44 (April, 1939), 203-206.

A discussion of the part education should play in adapting society to its geographical foundation.

THE NEW REGIONALISM

In a nation so large and diverse as America, it is natural if not inevitable that the people have come to think of it in terms of its regions.

We speak of the wheat region, the cotton belt, the great plains. We are thinking of football in terms of regions when we conjecture as to the relative strength of the teams of the East and the Middle West. In Babson's reports or Gallup's Polls the figures are presented on some sort of a regional basis. Groups of states or historical sections are often referred to as regions; as the West, the North, or the South. The Tennessee Valley was chosen as a region for experimental social planning.

There seem to be almost as many "regions" as there are commentators and statisticians. But there is one fundamental principle underlying them all. Each region has some characteristic which tends to unify that area and to distinguish it from the surrounding areas. The next chapter will discuss some of the types of regions and the uses to which they may be put.

It is the purpose of the present chapter to point out that there is emerging in American thought a new Regionalism much more profound than that suggested by the popular concepts mentioned above.

In every area which represents a distinct cultural pattern, we find a regional pride and attachment. Each regional society has a strong tendency and desire to continue to develop in accordance with its geographic, historical, and cultural backgrounds. As the regional societies slowly take character, the knowledge of other regions gradually creeps in. The people become increasingly conscious of their differences and more alarmed at the prospect of being coerced into conformity with some uniform pattern which might not be suited to their conditions or to their temperament.

Regionalism may be said to be, in one sense, then, a recognition of the fact that the folk of the different parts of the nation are different; that these differences are deeply rooted in the geographic, historical, and cultural backgrounds; and that there is more to be gained by recognition, tolerance, and capitalization of these diversities than by seeking to destroy them in the interest of national uniformity.

The new regionalism is distinguished by its dynamic quality. It has risen rapidly in spite of its frequent confusion with sectionalism. It finds roots in the natural attachment of man to what is his own—land, customs, or people. It finds support in the pride of achievement, the exhilarating effect of progress under one's own power. It fosters that sense of importance that comes of being a recognized part of a larger and grander whole.

The doctrine of States Rights was originally promulgated to protect local traditions and local self-government against the encroachments of federal power. The principle is still valid. But it has been found that the States cannot cope successfully with certain important problems because the area of their jurisdiction does not cover the problem area.

Regionalism stands between the narrowness and ineffectiveness of state action and the cumbersome, coercive federal action on problems of a regional nature. Giving political powers to regional divisions is unnecessary if not impossible. Regional rights, differences, and needs can be amply cared for by state and federal governments, if the regional approach is used in the process of studying the problems and planning the action.

The trend today is for the national government to have more and more to do with social and economic matters. It deals with such things as employment, investment, and development of resources. In these activities it must either assume a perfectly uniform nation equally affected by every measure or it must plan in terms of regional differences.

It seems safe to say at the present time that our government is committed to planning under guidance of experts and is sympathetic to the use of the regional approach in the formulation of most plans; yet there is needed an exhaustive and unbiased study of the regional characteristics, needs, and resources of our nation. And there is needed some provision for the clearer expression of regional initiative.

Some contend that regionalism is but another form of the old sectionalism. They cannot believe that any group of people are capable of seeing beyond the boundaries of their own section and perceiving that, ultimately, their highest good depends on the highest national welfare.

But the contrast between regionalism and sectionalism is real. The section thinks of itself as an area set apart from the rest of the nation while the region thinks of itself as a needed component

of the national whole. Sectionalism is a philosophy of independence and antagonism, regionalism stresses interdependence and cooperation. Sectionalism implies conflict, regionalism tolerance and reciprocity. Sectionalism tends to divide, regionalism tends to unite and to integrate the nation.

Whatever may be its merits or demerits, the new regionalism is here. It has arisen quietly and spontaneously in many quarters and promises to be a prominent feature of the American scene for some time to come.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I RISE OF REGIONALISM

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapters I and II.

Regionalism may be seen as a science.

Regionalism may be seen as the spontaneous expression of indigenous regional characteristics.

Regionalism may be seen as the basis for realistic planning.

Regionalism may be seen as an economy of decentralization of power, of population, and of opportunity.

Regionalism may be seen as an economy of balance and equilibrium between conflicting forces.

Regionalism may be seen as being quite distinct from localism and sectionalism.

II REGIONS IN THE NATION

Regional Factors in National Planning, by National Resources Committee.

Natural boundaries of problem areas do not coincide with political boundaries.

Interstate compacts are sometimes formed for handling problems common to several states. There is need for more interstate cooperation.

There is a growing realization of state-regional and regional-national relationships.

The United States is divided into regions in many different ways, 125 of which are illustrated by maps in this volume.

III SECTIONS IN THE NATION

Significance of Sections in American History, by Frederick Jackson Turner.

Sectionalism has not been confined to the conflicts between the North and the South. It has involved all areas and played a significant part in shaping our national culture and economy.

The details of this work are not essential to our study of regionalism, but the concepts of sectionalism which it portrays are useful for purposes of comparison and contrast in understanding regionalism.

IV REGIONS VERSUS SECTIONS

Attack on Leviathan, by Donald Davidson.

It is interesting to read this book in this connection because its author intended it as an adverse criticism of regionalists and regionalism. In

taking the stand that regionalism is merely sectionalism in a disguised and impotent form, the author has made the distinction between regionalism and sectionalism clearer and has strengthened the case for regionalism in general.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Adams, James Truslow. *America's Tragedy*. New York. Scribner. 1934. 415 p.

Adams, James Truslow. *Epic of America*. Boston. Little. 1931. 433 p.

Gooch, R. K. *Regionalism in France*. New York. Century. 1931. 129 p.

History of regionalism in France. Valuable for its philosophy of regionalism.

Mukerjee, Radhakamal. *Regional Sociology*. New York. Century. 1926. 287 p.

A sociology based on the regional concept.

PAMPHLETS

National Resources Committee. *Regional Planning*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 28 p. Maps. 10 cents.

Brief discussion of regions and regional planning as seen by National Resources Committee.

SPECIAL REGIONS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

It has been stated that the new regionalism is based upon a recognition of the role that regions play in the continual evolution of society and the consideration of these regions in the formulation of public policy. The question at once arises: What type of region shall be used to implement regionalism and more specifically how shall the actual boundaries of such regions be laid out in America?

Shall physiographic regions such as soil regions or climatic regions be used?

Can the changes in society be interpreted and directed on the basis of river valley regions?

Shall we hark back to historical and political sections?

Would agricultural regions be suitable?

Shall we assume that metropolitanism is the culmination of our society and establish metropolitan regions?

If all these are rejected as being incomplete or founded on too narrow a basis, is there some composite all-purpose region which will be suitable for general planning?

Let us examine these regions one by one and test the adequacy of each as a basis for the interpretation and direction of social changes.

First, let us consider various natural regions. Rainfall belts, temperature zones, soil regions and the like all are obviously too narrow, too numerous, and too unstable to be considered seriously. Even a general geographic region is not suitable. As much as geographic factors influence society they constitute a relatively small part of the total picture.

River Valley regions have received some support as planning areas. The T.V.A. enterprise uses a river valley as its region. It has even been seriously proposed that seven or eight such regions be developed covering a major part of the national area.

It is true that many of the problems connected with regional development are based upon water engineering. Flood control, drainage, erosion control, power development, and water transportation, are but a few examples. Even so, there are many more problems which are not related directly to the drainage basin than are so related. Engineering technologies should be thought

of and used as tools of society; they should not set up as the determining factors in its development.

Moreover, the boundaries of river basins, though definite, are quite irregular and do not coincide with state areas in any case. The legal authority and control for such regions poses a dilemma. If the control is federal, then it is not a regional program at all but a federal project; such is the case with the T.V.A. If the control is by the states involved then some states will find themselves parties to several conflicting programs and will still have areas within their borders not involved in any such program. Though river valleys will always constitute important and useful subregions in any regional development program yet they are decidedly inadequate to serve as the basis for general planning programs of a truly regional nature.

Shall sections be used in lieu of regions? There is a school of thought that points to the important role which sections have played in the development of our nation and contends that sections should be officially recognized and allowed to function within the federal framework. In answer to this, it can be shown that sections do not conform to the areas of true regional homogeneity. It can be shown further, that they have often worked short-sightedly against their own ultimate best interests and of course often against the best interests of the nation as a whole. Regionalism has more to offer than can be gained by encouraging sections to renew their struggle.

Agricultural subregions, at first sight, seem to be logical planning regions. Agriculture does have a considerable influence on society but is far from being sole determining factor. Agricultural regions have the distinct disadvantages of being irregular, overlapping, and spotty. Like river valleys they will be important subregions for special problems relating to agriculture but must be rejected for total planning purposes.

Regionalism has often been used in a narrow sense to mean city zoning and metropolitan planning. Proposals have been made to set up planning regions around the large cities as centers. This sounds very feasible to many metropolitan-minded people. But when one looks at the whole nation of open spaces, rural areas, villages, towns, and small cities, and thinks of agricultural problems, land problems, water problems, educational problems, transportation problems, and a host of others it is seen that, after all, metropolitanism is but one phase of a staggeringly complex

society. The city area with its many problems growing out of congestion will be a subregion in the major planning scheme.

We have rejected each of the special-factor regions as the ideal planning region. Some were too small, some too irregular; all too narrow in scope and meaning.

In judging these regions we set up certain criteria for the ideal region. The social planning region must be neither too large nor too small. It must be based on the largest number of factors. It must be suited to the largest number of purposes. It must not cut across state lines. It must be a composite societal region.

The next chapter will tell how such regions are delineated and where they are located in America.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I RIVER VALLEY REGIONS

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter IV.

Rivers have played an important part in the historical development and the general economy of the nation.

The satisfactory and economic solution to technical river problems cannot be worked out except on the basis of basin-wide engineering.

A river valley comprehends enough common problems to make it an important subregion for planning but lacks the broad inclusiveness and social unity necessary for a major planning region.

The T.V.A. program is an experiment in the use of a river valley subregion for large-scale planning.

Drainage Basin Problems and Programs, by the National Resources Committee.

This is an extraordinary picture of the nation in terms of natural valley regions. It is an inventory of problems and potentialities of the multiple and rich natural resources as found in the rivers of the nation and the natural regions created by them.

It describes the work now going on and the work planned in seventeen major drainage areas comprehending approximately a hundred river valleys with their thousand tributaries.

Discussions emphasize the desirability and economy of dealing with water problems on a basin-wide basis.

II METROPOLITAN REGIONS

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter V.

A metropolitan region consists of a city and an indefinite amount of surrounding territory influenced by the presence of the city.

Metropolitan regions will constitute important subregions in any system of planning; in fact, planning as we know it today had its beginnings in metropolitan planning.

To construct regions which would adhere to cities rather than to the broader aspects of resources, economic patterns, and regional interests

would be to place the emphasis upon one factor rather than the total region.

Metropolitan Community, by R. D. McKenzie.

One of the series by the President's Committee on Recent Social Trends. It depicts the basic social changes that have taken place in American cities during this century. It includes a discussion of the city as an economic and social unity. It also covers problems of traffic, zoning, and government.

III THE RURAL NATION

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter VI.

Rural areas show a rather high degree of homogeneity in a large number of factors. Many distinctive traits are identified as "rural."

Agricultural regions of the nation correspond roughly with certain combinations of soil, climate, and topography.

The nature and tempo of rural life today is markedly different from that of the early agrarian culture.

The changes taking place in rural life pose some grave problems of adjustment and balance in the national economy.

Rural Social Trends, by Edmund Bruner and J. H. Kalb.

A detailed sociological analysis of the typical American rural community in 1930 and comparison with earlier conditions to show trends. Mobility of population, dependence upon agriculture, growth of villages, rural-urban relationships, economic and social institutions and implications for government are among the topics discussed.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Mumford Lewis. *The Culture of Cities*. New York. Harcourt, Brace and Co. 1938. 586 p.

A learned treatment of the subject.

Wood, Edith Elmer. *Recent Trends in American Housing*. New York. Macmillan. 1931. 317 p. Illus.

Housing in relation to health, income, crime, and standard of living.

PAMPHLETS

American Medical Association, Bureau of Medical Economics. *Rural Medical Service*. Chicago. American Medical Association. 1937. 80 p.

A picture of the distribution of medical services over the nation. National Resources Committee. *Regional Planning, Part II—St. Louis Region*. Washington. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1936. 68 p.. Illus. Maps. 25 cents.

Survey of the St. Louis metropolitan region in terms of history, resources, people, transportation, recreation, housing and other factors as a basis for urban planning.

SIX AMERICAS IN SEARCH OF A FAITH

"Out where the West begins", we say—but where does the West begin? Shall we determine it on the basis of handshake, accent, the type of hospitality? Where does the West become Far West, or Southwest? Again, where is the South? Is Maryland a Southern state; is Missouri? Does Texas belong in the same societal region as Virginia?

Questions like these evoke quite a bit of discussion and reveal wide variation of opinion. If a person places Maryland in the South it will be found that he has a certain set of characteristics in mind while another who places it in the Northeast is thinking of quite a different group of factors.

This suggests that only by considering a combination of all available indices can we arrive at a definite and practical placing of the various states with their proper groups.

For example let us consider the case of Texas. Cotton at once comes to our minds. Shall we put Texas with the other cotton producing states? Many characteristics are determined by the old cotton economy with its slaves, its land-use patterns, and its interest in free trade. The war between the sections intensified this unity.

But let us analyze disinterestedly the societal pattern in Texas today considering every available index. We find that its semiarid climate, its Spanish and Mexican influences, its oil, its historical backgrounds, its cattle ranches, and a host of other factors have also left their mark on its culture. After all Texas is more of the West than of the South—but certainly not the Far West, nor the Northwest.

If we carry this analysis to completion we will find that there is very definitely a Southwest. The culture of this region may be said to be in a state of emergence. This is not odd when it is recalled that Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico have all been admitted to the Union as states since 1900.

Next, consider the case of Maryland. Does it belong in the Northeast group of states or the Southeast? Again if we can drop our sentimental and preconceived ideas about where Maryland belongs and examine a long list of characteristics reduced to quantitative indices, we can come nearer to placing it in the proper group.

It will be found that on any list of one hundred characteristics selected at random Maryland will classify with the Northeastern states in about two-thirds of them. Even Virginia will qualify with the Northeastern group in almost half such indices.

If this process of analyzing culture factors, locating general culture areas, and then classifying the border states, is carried to completion it can be made to lead to a division of the United States into six group-of-states societal regions. These regions are: the Northeast including thirteen states in the urban-industrial area; the Southeast including eleven states from Virginia to Louisiana; the Southwest consisting of four states from Oklahoma to Arizona; the Middle States, comprising eight states of the industrial-agricultural region around the Great Lakes; the Northwest, including eight states over the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains; and the Far West consisting of the coastal states and Nevada.

Of course the number of regions is a more or less arbitrary matter. For example, the Northeast region might be divided into New England and Northeast Industrial regions or the Far West into Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest. Each region could be divided again and again. But there must be some stopping place. The number of regions should not be too great nor the regions themselves too small for comprehensive planning. It seems reasonable to say that six major regions is an optimum number. Hence the six-fold division in *American Regionalism*.

From the historical viewpoint we can see them as two Easts and four Wests. More realistically they may be considered as two Norths, two Souths, and two Wests. These regions answer then the specifications laid down in the preceding chapter for the best planning region. They represent distinct societal patterns. These are the groups of states which have the greatest homogeneity, on the largest number of indices, for the largest number of purposes.

Thus we have Six versions of American culture—or as some would have it Six Americas—of which Odum says:

“ . . . each is an empire of territory and wealth in itself. Each is greater and more self-sufficing than many nations of the world. Each is incurably sentimental and patriotic about its own virtues and assets. Each is colossally ignorant and provincial with reference to

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other regions, believing everything it hears and inquiring into the truth only when impelled by necessity or specific advantage. Each can honestly boast of a surprisingly large number of superior and distinctive advantages, resources, cultural backgrounds. Each has its strong points and weak points, foci of motivation and crisis, of advance and recession. Each bears its integral part in the burden of the nation, and each, alas, contributes its load to the nation's burden of problems. Each wants much from the federal government, and each presents a marvelous array of evidence to support its claims. Washington is learning as never before the significance of regions and the measure of common ignorance concerning their complicated folkways and institutions.

Again, each region has its distinctive historical backgrounds rich in romance and contributing materially to the total national pattern and inseparably interwoven with the economic and political fabric of the nation. How new and young, after all, were the more westerly regions: Middle States, Southwest, Northwest, Far West—cultures fabricated by and in the memory of living men and women.”

It is interesting to contemplate these regions on the map. It is more interesting still to see them portrayed in terms of their history, their culture and their outlook. It is intriguing to ponder the possibilities in the development of each culture along the lines of its own trends and in terms of its own setting and to envision the nation as an organic union of these six American regions.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I MEASURES OF AMERICAN REGIONALISM

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XVIII.

Regions are not created, they already exist; the problem is one of describing and delineating the most convenient regional areas for practical purposes.

The regions should not be too few nor too many, too large nor too small. They may comprehend a variety of subregions and districts.

The region should exhibit a fair degree of homogeneity in physiography, historical development, people, institutions, and in special features commonly accepted as characteristic.

Statistical indices set up from an inventory of physical, technological, economic, and social facts may be used to check and refine the delineation of regional boundaries.

Each of the six regions may be described in terms of its homogeneities and characteristic features.

Southern Regions of the United States, by H. W. Odum.

This is a monumental work. Although the text is devoted mainly to the two Southern regions the book is recommended at this point for two reasons.

First, it contains several hundred maps, lists, and tables, showing data used in arriving at the sixfold division of the nation and chapters on regional planning.

Second, it is an example of the sort of study that should be made of each of the regions in turn as an inventory of problems and resources for intra- and interregional planning.

II REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN READING

Geography of Reading, by L. R. Wilson.

In discussing the availability and use of library resources, aggregates and averages have very little meaning.

More than one-third of the population of the nation are without any available public library facilities.

There are extreme inequalities in the availability and use of library service among communities in the same county, counties in the same state, states within a region, and among the regions in the nation.

With the aid of this book it is possible to analyze the library situation and problem of almost any locality in the United States.

III THE PEOPLE OF THE REGIONS

Problems of a Changing Population, by National Resources Commission.

This study is made on the basis of the six regions as laid down by Odum and Moore and contains a discussion of regional planning.

Changes in age ratios, fertility rates, and other population factors create the necessity for corresponding adjustments in the regional and national economies.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Brown, F. J., and Roucek, J. S. *Our Racial and National Minorities*. New York. Prentice-Hall. 1937. 877 p. Graphs. Tables.

A study of racial and cultural minorities, their conflicts and trends of development.

Kouwenhoven, John A. *Adventures of America, 1857-1900; A Pictorial Record from Harper's Weekly*. New York. Harpers. 1938. 247 p.

History as revealed through articles and pictures from *Harper's Weekly*.

PAMPHLETS

Advisory Committee on Education. *Report of the Committee*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 243 p. 35 cents.

A report on federal relationship to education; brings out inequality of opportunity and recommends a program of equalization.

American Medical Association. *Distribution of Physicians in the United States*. By R. G. Leland, 535 North Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. American Medical Association. 1936. 83 p. Table. Graphs.

U. S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. *A Social-Economic Grouping of the Gainful Workers of the United States*. By Alba M. Edwards. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 279 p. Tables. 25 cents.

Data on socio-economic status of workers by race, nationality, industry, states, and division.

Housing Division, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. *Slums and Blighted Areas in the U. S.*, by Edith Elmer Wood. Housing Division Bul. 1. Washington, D. C. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. 1936. 126 p. Tables. Diagrams. Illus.

Slum problems and housing conditions in various large cities.

National Education Association Research Division. "Federal Support for Education." *Research Bulletin*. Vol. 15, No. 4 (Sept., 1937), 156-183.

Contains section on state and regional inequalities in educational burden, effort, and opportunity.

National Resources Committee. *Consumer Incomes in the United States; Their Distribution in 1935-36*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 104 p. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Charts. 30 cents.

Shows distribution of consumer incomes by type of community, occupations, family size, racial differences, rural-urban differences, and regional patterns.

United States Department of Agriculture. Bureau of Home Economics. *Consumer Purchases Study*. (Reports for New England, Central, Pacific, Mountain and Plains and Southeast regions.) Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. To be issued during 1939.

Consumer spending by regions.

U. S. Department of Agriculture. *A Graphic Summary of Farm Animals and Animal Products*. By O. E. Baker, Misc. Pub. 269. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1939. 88 p. Maps. 10 cents.

Distribution of farm animals shown by maps.

U. S. Department of Agriculture. *A Graphic Summary of Farm Crops*. By O. E. Baker and A. B. Genung. Misc. Pub. 267. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 129 p. Maps. Graphs. 15 cents.

Distribution of crops and production shown by maps.

U. S. Department of Agriculture. *A Graphic Summary of Farm Labor and Population*. By J. C. Folsom and O. E. Baker. Misc. Pub. 265. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1937. Maps. Graphs. 10 cents.

Statistics on farm labor shown by maps.

United States Department of Agriculture. Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Consumers' Counsel Division. *A Survey of Milk Con-*

sumption in 59 Cities in the United States. Consumers' Counsel Series, Pub. 2. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1936. 33 p. Tables.

Geographic distribution of milk consumption.

United States Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Geographical Variation in Hours and Wages During 1933 and 1935.* Serial No. R735. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 29 p. Tables. From the *Monthly Labor Review*, July, 1938.

Variation in hours and wages for workers over the nation.

PERIODICALS

Bentley, Phyllis. "I Look at American Fiction." *The Saturday Review of Literature*. Vol. 20, No. 3 (May 13, 1939), 3-4.

Discussion of literary regionalism.

THE MIDDLE STATES AND THEIR "MIDDLE WEST"

How well named—these Middle States—the land of "Middle-town" and "Main Street"! Here the Frontier has come of age—a blending of the industrial East and the agricultural West. The region is characterized by Odum and Moore as "the most American of them all". Lying amongst and around the greatest group of inland lakes in the world, it enjoys many advantages in its location. It is a land of rich and abundant natural resources.

There are eight states in this region: Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. These states cover only fifteen percent of the area of the United States but have over twenty-seven percent of the people and about thirty percent of the wealth.

The region includes the North Central Dairy Region, the Lake Region, the Corn Belt, and part of the Lower Valley of the Ohio. Its richness and variety are attested by the fact that there are 138 farming subregions.

The region is characterized by the best balance in certain major factors of any of the regions. It has mining, agriculture, heavy industry, and manufacturing. There is a fair degree of balance between rural and urban constituency, between industry and agriculture, and between farm lands and farm population.

Its regional unity grows partly out of its geographical characteristics and partly from its historical background. Six of these states recently jointly celebrated the 150th anniversary of the official organization of the government of the Old Northwest Territory.

The culture evolved here has been called a fusion of the contributions of the New England Puritan, the Southern Cavalier, and the Scotch-Irish frontiersman. The area was peopled originally by expansion of the East and the South. There has been added to this foundation of transplanted Americans two waves of immigrants from Europe. The old immigration of British, Germans, and Scandinavians settled largely in the rural sections, became thoroughly Americanized, and have made good farmers. As the land filled up, the later immigrants were attracted to the cities by the industrial opportunities. More than a fourth of the foreign born population of the United States live in this region.

It is, in general, a region of high comparative indices. It has a high proportion of people employed, high average wages, and a high percentage of children in school. The percentage of people working in clerical and professional occupations is somewhat above the average.

The region leads in the production of several important agricultural products. More than half of the nation's corn and swine are produced in this area. It produces forty-three percent of the milk and fifty-three percent of the butter. It leads the nation in production of horses, chickens, eggs, hay, cabbages, and cantaloupes. It leads the nation in cars and trucks owned on farms and in money spent on State Agricultural Stations.

The region ranks second in production of wheat, beef cattle, and potatoes. It is also second in the percentage of farm income through cooperative sales of produce. It leads in farm newspaper circulation and farms having telephones.

In industrial development and production the region also stands high. It is second only to the Northeast in industry as a whole and excels in several significant indices. It has a third of the nation's wage earners and leads the nation in average wages paid. The region ranks second in amount of developed horsepower with 32.1 percent of the total. It produces the most iron ore. It leads the nation in number of establishments for the production of machinery and transportation equipment. With fifteen percent of the area it has twenty-eight percent of the nation's railroad mileage.

The region ranks second among the regions in number of establishments in textiles, paper, publishing, petroleum and coal products, leather, glass, stone, iron and steel products, and various other items. It has one-third of the motor vehicles, the highest percentage of state highways paved and the highest percent of homes occupied by owners.

Here is the region where idleness is sin, where any farm boy can be president, where 'hoe your own row' is practiced as well as preached. Here labor unions are 'evils' inflicted on the people by foreign agitators, which serve to break up the partnership between capital and labor. Here class distinction is based on 'how well one has done', not on ancestry. Here is America's 'Main Street.'

This brief resumé of their historical backgrounds and catalogue of their ranks in many lines of production cannot give any

adequate idea of the real daily life and work of the people of this region. It does, however, show something of the variety and balance among the various enterprises in which these people are engaged. It helps us understand their sense of permanence and their Americanism.

From the foregoing description, it must not be assumed that the region is without its normal quota of deficiencies and problems. For example, it seems paradoxical that a region of such wealth and balance should be the second largest recipient of relief funds. It has next to the lowest farm income per capita. There is a high degree of mortgaged indebtedness on owner-operated farms. There is a high ratio of farm tenancy. In some of the cutover lands of the region we find serious conditions of poverty and insecurity among the stranded populations.

Organized crime and machine politics exist side by side with high moral standards and political innovation. Stream pollution has damaged wild life and endangered human water supply. Slum districts and other symptoms of overcongestion have developed in the larger cities.

Of course these problems are being dealt with and will continue to be dealt with because they represent some of the universal continuous problems of all society. Nevertheless, as there is only one Middle States Region of America in the world, they are in a very real sense unique. The solution of these problems cannot be worked out elsewhere. The work must be done in terms of the very people involved and with the very resources available.

The region has its unique versions of the other universal and eternal problems of society. Chief among these, possibly, is the task of achieving balance between the members of many pairs of opposed forces. The difficulty is further increased by the fact that these pairs also interact on one another. Yet the health of any society may largely be measured in the degree to which it is able to maintain this complex equilibrium.

First, there is the question of equilibrium between the rights and powers of the individual and the rights and powers of the group. To what degree shall government control corporations? Shall rights heretofore jealously guarded as belonging to the individual and the state be surrendered to the federal government? How can the every day citizen be given a real voice in large scale development programs without having the limitations

of his knowledge and vision restrict the nature and value of the work?

There must also be some degree of balance between such pairs as capital and labor, profits and price, technological innovation and sociological adaptation, and many others.

It is the responsibility of the region to perfect and preserve certain cultural characteristics such as the strong sense of democracy and certain innovations in city and county government. There are also many cultural traits in this region which should be carefully studied with a view to improvement.

It will benefit the region to facilitate interstate action on many problems of river engineering, wild life preservation, agricultural and industrial production, navigation, and a number of similar problems. There are many problems, also, such as agricultural production quotas, which have interregional and regional-national aspects.

Some way is needed in which to give opportunity to large numbers of people who for one reason or another are unable to cope with the complexities of modern life and who therefore continually remain on the margins of starvation and despair. What little they do have to offer the world in return for a living should be made use of and they should be assured a modicum of comfort and happiness in return.

There are numerous other miscellaneous problems which cannot well be seen or handled from a local perspective. There is the question of providing safe, efficient transportation in the twentieth century style. Air travel raises many new problems. The depletion of resources or obsolescence of industries should be seen far enough in advance to prevent dire social consequences.

Further concentration of population in small areas should be discouraged by every available means and plans made for gradual decentralization of the population in the congested spots. Land-use surveys and programs should be continued and spread in time to cover the entire region.

A complete and accurate inventory of the region—its human and physical assets and liabilities—should be begun and run more or less continually in the future. This sociological inventory should be available for studying and planning for the region's problems.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I THE MIDDLE STATES

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XIX.

The culture and economy of this region correspond to its geographic position; these are Middle States.

Much of its character can be inferred from its history.

The earlier and the later immigrations contributed greatly to its society.

The region excels in many lines of agricultural and industrial production.

Certain cultural features may be considered as characteristic of the region.

There are many problems of a social and economic nature which should be worked out on the basis of a regional or regional-national correlation.

II CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE WEST

Sources of Culture in the Middle West, by D. R. Fox.

Brief and interesting discussion by a number of distinguished authors of Frederick Jackson Turner's theories of the frontier. While Turner's theory has not always been accepted it has contributed much to the understanding of American culture.

III URBAN LIFE IN THE MIDDLE WEST

Middletown in Transition, by R. S. Lynd and H. M. Lynd.

This work, and the earlier "Middletown," describe in detail a small city in this "most American" of all the regions. *Middletown in Transition* deals primarily with the changes that have taken place in the past fifty years. It depicts the social conditions of a small industrial city.

IV AGRICULTURE YIELDS TO INDUSTRY

The Farm, by Louis Bromfield.

Covering four generations of a family living in this region, it shows clearly the transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy. This novel is essentially a social history of the Middle West.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio*. 57th Street, New York. Modern Library. 1919.

Tales of Ohio small-town life, tending to show dullness and narrowness.

McKenney, Ruth. *Industrial Valley*. New York. Harcourt Brace. 1939. 379 p.

A commentary, not so much on this region, as on modern industrial development. Though characterized by some reviewers as "one-sided history," it is a readable and powerful view of a not too pleasant part of American life.

Suckow, Ruth. *The Folks*. New York. Farrar. 1934. 727 p.

Simple account of details of middle class life in small Iowa town.

PAMPHLETS

Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. *Types of Farming in Illinois; An Analysis of Difference by Areas*. By H. C. M. Case and K. H. Myers. Bul. 403. Urbana, Illinois. University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. 1934. 227 p. Illus. Maps. Tables.

Shows how farm organization is related to local conditions.

Illinois Housing Commission. *Final Report*. Chicago. Illinois Housing Commission. 1933. 34 p.

Suggests a long range program for publicly financed housing.

Michigan Department of Public Instruction. *Michigan Today; Its Human and Physical Resources as They Affect Education*. Bul. 307. Lansing. State Department of Public Instruction. 1937. 301 p.

Comprehensive survey of natural and human resources in Michigan.

National Resources Board. *Inventory of the Water Resources of the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and Red River of the North Drainage Area*. By L. K. Sherman. Washington, D. C. National Resources Board. 1935. 48 p. Processed.

A study of the water resources of this region with recommendations for planning.

St. Louis Regional Planning Commission. *Planning Progress in the St. Louis Region*. 610 Victoria Bldg., St. Louis, Missouri. St. Louis Regional Planning Commission. June, 1937. 11 p. Maps. Illus. Free.

A report on the St. Louis metropolitan planning program.

Wisconsin Division of Land Economic Inventory. *Land Economic Inventory of Juneau County*. Bul. 1. Madison. Division of Land Economic Inventory. 1934. 52 p. Maps.

A study of land use planning in a Wisconsin county.

Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. *A Study of Wisconsin, Its Resources, Its Physical, Social, and Economic Background*. Madison. Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. 1934. 502 p. Maps. Tables. Graphs. Processed.

A study of Wisconsin for planning purposes.

PERIODICALS

Banning, M. C. "The Middle-Aged Middle West." *Harpers*. Vol. 173 (Sept., 1936), 403-411.

Attitudes and mores of the Middle West.

THE NORTHEAST AND ITS NEW ENGLAND

The Northeast Region may be characterized as being industrial and urban. With less than seven percent of the area of the United States it has over thirty percent of the people. This region has the smallest area and the largest population of any region. Five of the ten largest metropolitan areas and all of the first ten dense urban areas are in this smallest of all regions. This region produces nearly forty percent of the manufactured goods of the nation.

This region covers the middle and upper Appalachian Highlands and takes in the narrow coastal margin on the east and extends into the lake region on the west. There are 122 farming subregions recognized. Its temperate climate, its proximity to the Great Lakes region, its great mineral wealth, and its natural harbors have combined to promote its growth and wealth.

The people of the Northeast represent a very complex mixture. First there were the colonists, made up mainly of English, but with numbers of Dutch, Swedes, Germans, and Ulster Scots. Then there were early waves of immigrants from lower Europe, the masses of which stayed in the metropolitan districts. Again there has been constant infiltration to the Northeast from the other sections of the United States. This includes large numbers of whites, and recently of Negroes, from the Southeast. Finally there have been recent waves of foreign immigration. In all there are more than six million foreign born people in the Northeast, several states having as high as twenty-five percent foreign born. Many of them are as yet not assimilated. All in all the ports of the region have been the point of entry for immigrants and the area has become the major melting pot for immigrants from all parts of the world. Nearly thirty-five percent of the population of New York City is foreign born and only fifty-five percent were born in New York State.

It may help one to see the regional character of this region if he thinks of it as being New England and Greater New York. A majority of the indices relating to population, wealth, industry, agriculture, and national influence, point to unity among the states within the region and differentiation from other regions.

The Northeast leads the nation in gross manufactures and value added by manufacture. It is estimated that slightly more

than half the total individual income for the nation goes to people of this region. Thrift as well as wealth is indicated by the fact that the region has two-thirds of the savings of the nation.

Its agriculture is diversified and intensified. This is the only region in which there has been a consistent decrease in farm tenancy since the turn of the century. There is no crop on which the region has virtual monopoly as with tobacco in the South, or certain fruits in the West. But the Northeast does produce about thirty percent of the white potatoes and twenty-six percent of fourteen vegetables combined. It produces twenty-five percent of the nation's apples, peaches, and pears and sizeable portions of milk, butter, and eggs.

The region's resources lie largely in its position, its priority in certain industries and organization, its minerals, and its accumulated capital. Being a manufacturing region one of its chief resources lies in the industrial technologies that have been developed, institutions for research and dissemination, and the skills of thousands of trained workmen to put them into effect.

The educational tradition in this region is of long standing and generally strong. The proportion of the population under twenty-one years of age is low. This means that there are relatively more adults for every child to be educated. This, coupled with the high per capita wealth accounts largely for the high indices with relation to public education. The region is also richest in old established higher institutions of first rank.

Here then is the Northeast with its New England and its New York—first in wealth, first in manufacturing and trade, and first in organizations of national scope. Here is the most polyglot population, the most mature culture, the strongest vestige of transplanted Europe.

As was pointed out with respect to the Middle States in the preceding chapter, the Northeastern Region also has its own peculiar forms of the common problems of society. Here we see these problems as altered by the urban-industrial character of the region and by its peculiar position as gateway to Europe and financial capital of America.

While many of the problems of ruralism disappear in urban centers, yet the problems that go with metropolitan concentrations are numerous and difficult. Slums tend to form in the more congested areas. There is always a fringe of unemployables, stranded job-hunters, and other indigents, many of whom are on

the verge of drifting into petty crime. Crime often assumes the form of racketeering and gangsterism. Certain types of recreation become expensive or impossible. Noises, necessary and unnecessary, wear on the nerves. Traffic becomes annoying and hazardous. Certain phases of health protection become very complex.

Another group of problems centers around the high industrialization. There are such problems as corporation control of politics; company communities with their isolation and paternalism; and various laborer-employer strifes. There are also problems of power development, stream pollution, and conservation of various resources.

In its capacity as the dominant financial center the region is concerned with many interregional or national matters, such as, transportation routes and rates, communications, tariffs, markets for manufactured goods, sources of raw materials, foreign policy and the like.

Representatives from the planning boards of six New England States have formed a New England regional planning board. This is a natural step in the direction of coordination of planning activities. This commission has carried out surveys and made recommendations. It would doubtless be more effective if it included all the states of the Northeastern societal region and still more so if the other regions had councils with which it could cooperate on interregional problems. On the other hand, because of the momentum of this work and the distinctiveness of the New England culture, the breaking down of the Northeast into an urban-industrial Northeast and a New England Northeast, as has been done by the Stanford group, seems justifiable. This division is illustrated in the map on the frontispiece.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I THE NORTHEAST AND ITS NEW ENGLAND

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. W. Moore. Chapter XX.

This twelve-state region has the smallest area and the largest population.

The oldest region yet the one with highest percent foreign born.

Its resources include many intangibles such as location, skills, institutions, and priorities.

Though primarily dependent upon industrial and financial enterprises its agriculture is specialized and profitable.

It is not difficult to find characterizing indices of culture in this region.

Its general superiority in indices relating to wealth and institutions does not mean an absence of problems.

Regional problems include housing for low income groups, pollution abatement, coordinating transportation media, providing recreational facilities and maintaining just relations between employer and employee.

II SURVEY OF NEW ENGLAND

New England's Prospect, 1933, by the American Geographical Society.

This book is a systematic regional study of the New England area. Each chapter is prepared by a recognized leader in that particular field.

It reviews the historical background, the landscapes, the agricultural situation, the industrial situation, the forests, the transportation facilities, manufacturing outlook, and social services and points to a definite program of action in each field.

III LITTLE OLD NEW YORK

Mastering a Metropolis, by R. L. Duffus.

A study of the major planning problems of the New York Metropolitan area as drawn from the nine surveys of the region.

IV THE HISTORIC HUDSON

Hudson River, by Carl Carmer.

The story of the Hudson River Valley told from the standpoint of the everyday people who live in this area.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Carroll, Gladys Hasty. *As the Earth Turns*. New York. Macmillan. 1933. 339 p.

Picture of life on a Maine farm. Each season has its "work," and the cycle begins all over again every year.

Eastman, Elaine Goodale. *Hundred Maples*. Brattleboro, Vermont. Stephen Daye Press. 1935.

Valuable for its comparison of New England farming with farming in other regions.

Garside, Edward B. *Cranberry Red*. Boston. Little, Brown. 1938. 423 p.

Shows something of the conflicts, issues and labor conditions in a Cape Cod cranberry bog.

Hergesheimer, Joseph. *The Three Black Pennys*. New York. Knopf. 1917. 416 p.

Three ages in the Pennsylvania iron region.

PAMPHLETS

New Jersey State Planning Board. *State Planning in New Jersey; What it is, Why it is needed, How it operates*. Trenton. State Planning Board. 1937. 12 p.

Valuable as a discussion of planning.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction. *Pennsylvania; An Inventory of the Human and Economic Resources of the Common-*

wealth. Prepared from Reports of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board. Harrisburg. Department of Public Instruction. 1936. 97 p. Maps. Tables. Graphs.

Study of Pennsylvania resources written for school use.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. *Soil Defense in the Northeast*. By Glenn K. Rule. Farmers Bulletin No. 1810. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 69 p. Illus. 15 cents.

Causes and prevention of erosion in the Northeast.

PERIODICALS

Ladd, C. E. "Land Planning in the Empire State." *New Republic*. Vol. 71 (August, 1932), 306-308.

Improper land use and poor living conditions go together.

THE SOUTHEAST AND ITS "OLD SOUTH"

It is no longer sufficient to speak of 'the South'; there are, of course, many Souths. But more than this, in general it has become necessary to distinguish between the Southwest and the Southeast. The distinctive culture of the Southwest will be discussed in Chapter X.

The Southeast may be characterized in many ways: but in general it is peculiarly distinctive in three main characteristics, namely in its historical and cultural background, in its culture, and in its warm humid climate and long growing season. The region includes eleven states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. These states comprise slightly less than twenty percent of the national area and have slightly more than twenty percent of the population.

The region covers the lower end of the Appalachian Highlands, a Piedmont Region, a coastal plain including the Florida peninsula, and the lower valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi. Woofter was able to distinguish twenty-seven subregions large enough to constitute socio-economic entities. On still another basis there are found to be more than 150 farming areas.

The South was originally peopled mainly by English and Scotch settlers. There was some Spanish and French colonization in Florida and along the Gulf coast. It still boasts of the purest Anglo-Saxon stock in America.

Of the twelve million descendents of the Negro slaves, about eight million now live in the Southeast. They constitute about one-third of the total population. No state in this region has less than a fourth of its population negroes except Kentucky and Tennessee. It is generally agreed that the whole cultural pattern in the Southeast has been largely conditioned by its biracial civilization.

The Southeastern Region has abundant natural resources. Its climate and soils are agricultural resources. It has forests, water power, coal, gas, and petroleum. Iron, coal, and dolomite are found in close proximity in Alabama.

The agriculture of the Southeast is varied but not diversified. There is a cotton belt which produces sixty percent of the nation's cotton, and several special tobacco areas in all accounting for

eighty-four percent of the nation's tobacco. There are many trucking areas suitable for different seasons and the region produces more than a third of the nation's vegetables. Rice, peanuts, cane, corn, wheat, chickens, and swine are produced in sizeable quantities.

The region is not primarily an industrial one. Cotton mills are plentiful in the eastern Piedmont; subsidiaries of the large steel corporations produce about seven percent of the nation's steel in Alabama. Most of the industry consists in processing agricultural and forest products such as making pulp, paper, sugar, lumber, canned foods, and the like. Several cities have diversified small manufactures.

The region is one of unusually high human fertility. This is evidenced in the large migration out of the region and by the high proportion of young people in the population. In some states as high as fifty percent of the population is under twenty-one years of age. This is contrasted with New York where only about twenty-five percent are minors.

The region is one of relatively low indices of wealth and consequently of education and other institutional services. All the states of this region rank in the lowest fourth in tangible wealth percapita. Income and wages rank uniformly from thirty to fifty percent below the national level. This low wealth is reflected in the lowest percapita retail sales and lowest educational services.

What new forms do the problems of social balance and social progress take in this region of contrasts?

This region has been in recent years the subject of detailed regional analysis and widespread discussion. Students agree that it is a region of great resources and possibilities. Yet they also point to the wide gap between its actualities and its potentialities. Some attribute this disparity to one thing and some to another. The cause, however, should not be over-simplified. There are undoubtedly many contributing factors and these factors interact on one another to complicate the issues. Sociologists have said that here is the challenge and test of regionalism. Here regional problems are more obvious, needs more urgent, and possibilities greater than in any other area.

As we should expect, the problems of society appear here in new patterns of imbalance and deficiency. There is an imbalance between potentialities and realization. There is plenti-

ful labor but a deficiency of tools and equipment. There is an abundance of natural resources but insufficient capital to develop them. There are too many people in extractive and not enough in manufacturing and distributive occupations.

Poor educational facilities are both cause and effect of many of the deficiencies of the region. Ignorance, prejudice, even illiteracy are serious obstacles to progress. Yet these states spend more for education in proportion to percapita wealth than do states of other regions. The region lacks higher institutions for research and for training special technologists.

Waste is an all too-prominent feature of the economy of the Southeast. Lands are exhausted or allowed to wash away. Forests are burned promiscuously. Duplication in educational and religious institutions adds to their cost and lessens their value. Migration out of the region is a constant financial and social drain.

Agriculture of the Southeast also suffers from imbalance. There is too much dependence on one crop—in some areas cotton, in others tobacco. Diversification, rotation, and additional livestock are needed to round out the farm program and maintain soil fertility.

The percentage of tenancy is high. More than half the farmers are tenants. Moreover, the traditions relating to tenure are such that they contribute to the degeneration of both the land and the tenant. Again, the cutting away of forests has left populations stranded over large areas. The rehabilitation of these people is a problem.

Enough has been said about the deficiencies in the Southeast to indicate that there is an immense problem of intra-regional improvement. But it is the nature of regions that their problems cannot be dealt with entirely from within. As a spoke implies a wheel so a region implies a total national economy that is sound and wholesome only if all its parts are functioning well.

The Southeast is interested in international relations because it is affected largely by international trade. It is interested in crop quotas because it is both consumer and producer of farm goods. Its dealing with labor, with corporations, with capital, and with many other problems will depend largely upon what the other regions do. It needs freedom from all forms of discrimination. And lastly, it needs just and sympathetic cooperation

from the other regions to restore it to its proper position in the national economy.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Southern Regions of the United States, by H. W. Odum.

Louisiana and Arkansas fall among the eleven states that comprise the Southeast but Texas belongs with the New Southwest.

The region has had a long and interesting history. Victim of sectionalism within and without, it is a region of fluctuating fortune, sharp contrasts, and menacing imbalance.

It is primarily an agricultural region of small farms and cash crop farming.

The region's problems have been carefully studied in recent years and plans for its progress mapped out.

A high percentage of children in the population coupled with a low percapita income is largely responsible for low educational standards.

It has abundant natural and human resources but is deficient in capital, technological, and institutional wealth.

II WASTE

The Wasted Land, by Gerald Johnson.

This is a short and very readable book on the social and economic situation in the South. It is based on the findings of the Social Science Research Council as presented in Odum's *Southern Regions of the United States*. It shows that the region has abundant resources on the one hand and much poverty and waste on the other.

III CHANGE

A Southerner Discovers the South, by Jonathan Daniels.

An account of a journey through the South by a newspaper editor. His keen observations and penetrating insight throw an interesting light on the social changes taking place in the South at the present time.

IV CULTURE

Culture in the South, by W. T. Couch (editor).

A symposium on the more important aspects of life in the present South and their historic background. Each chapter deals with a particular phase of Southern culture and each is prepared by a competent authority in the field in question. This book is characterized by Hamilton Basso in the *New Republic* as "... probably the best non-fiction book on the South that has yet appeared."

The preface and four or five selected chapters would form a good foundation for a program discussion.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Caldwell, Erskine, and White, Margaret Bourke. *You Have Seen Their Faces*. New York. Viking. 1937. 190 p.

Photographs of faces among the sharecroppers of the South tell their story.

Harris, Bernice. *Purslane*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press. 1939. \$2.50. 316 p.

Rural life near Raleigh, North Carolina, in the first decade of this century.

Heyward, DuBose. *Porgy*. New York. Doubleday. 1925. 196 p.

Interesting tale of negro life in Charleston.

Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone With the Wind*. New York. Macmillan. 1936. 1937 p.

Prize-winning novel of the Civil War era. Shows effects of the war on the plantation system and depicts the hardships of reconstruction.

Nixon, C. H. *Forty Acres and Steel Mules*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press. 1938. \$2.50. 96 p.

Odum, H. W. *An American Epoch; Southern Portraiture in the National Picture*. New York. Holt. 1930. 379 p. O. P.

Powdermaker, Hortense. *After Freedom; The Portrait of a Community in the Deep South*. New York. Viking. 1939. 408 p.

Study of negro culture in a Mississippi community.

Saxon, Lyle. *Children of Strangers*. New York. Houghton. 1937. \$2.50.

Folkways among the negroes of southern Louisiana.

Vance, Rupert. *Human Factors in Cotton Culture; A Study in the Social Geography of the American South*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press. 1929. 346 p. Soil-Region Map.

Shows the influence of the cotton "system" on the culture of the South.

Vance, Rupert. *Human Geography of the South*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press. 1932.

It is a comprehensive and thorough study of the interaction of people and environment in the Southeast. There is a chapter on regional planning.

PAMPHLETS

Embres, Edwin R. *Little Red Schoolhouse Southern Style*. Chicago. Julius Rosenwald Fund. 1938. 25 p.

Shows that poorly educated Southerners migrate to other regions.

Hobbs, S. H., Jr. *North Carolina, Economic and Social*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press. 1930. Maps. Tables. Diagrams.

A complete study of the state of North Carolina.

National Emergency Council. *Report on Economic Conditions of the South*. Washington. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 64 p.

A concise and comprehensive statement of economic conditions in the South.

Public Affairs Committee. *The South's Place in the Nation*. By Rupert B. Vance. Bul. No. 6. Chapel Hill. Public Affairs Committee. 1936. 32 p.

Valuable for its discussion of regional-national relations.

U. S. Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. *Soil Defense in the South*. By E. M. Rowalt. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 64 p. Illus. 10 cents.

Erosion control methods in the Southeast.

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. *Negro Life in Rural Virginia, 1865-1934*. By W. E. Garnett and J. M. Ellison. Bul. 295. Blacksburg, Virginia. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1934. 59 p. Maps. Tables.

Study of education, living standards, and such factors for negroes in Virginia.

Works Progress Administration, Division of Social Research. *Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation*. By T. J. Woofter, Jr. Research Monograph V. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1936. 288 p. Illus. Charts. Tables. Maps.

A thorough study of landlord-tenant relationships.

THE FAR WEST AND ITS CALIFORNIA

We now turn to the western axis of the development of American civilization. The Pacific Coast Region, as it might have been called, represents a distinct pattern of culture. It is made up of California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada. It contains about fifteen percent of the area and eight percent of the population of the nation. The eastern half of Nevada would logically fall into the Northwest Region, but since the state as a whole must go together it goes with California. Nevada is the gateway to the Far West and its urban population concentrated on the western side leans toward the Far Western pattern.

The dominating influence in this region is the west coast exposure. This and the discovery of gold caused it to be settled before the other two western regions. The ocean affords sea ports and sea ports make this region the Western outlet of the United States and the gateway to the rising East. A west coast exposure in the Northern hemisphere also provides a favorable distribution of rainfall through the year. The soil is rich and productive because it has not been leached as many Eastern soils have.

These states rank close together among themselves and relatively different from nearby states in many cultural and physical characteristics. These states are fairly uniform in their ranking on such items as: high percent of population over fifty-five years old, low tenancy ratio, high percapita true wealth and annual income, high rank in public education and library use, high percapita retail sales, and many other factors relating to wealth and education.

These states are further knit by similarities in their historical backgrounds and their common destiny. It has been predicted that the great culture of the future will be evolved here.

The topography of the region is varied. The two extremes of altitude are found within one state. This region also has the longest extent from North to South. These and other factors provide a variety of scenery and diversity of climate that are distinct assets. Winter sports and tropical sports go on simultaneously less than a day's journey apart.

The region may be roughly divided into a northern and a southern subregion. Again, on another basis of analysis, there

are seen to be seven subregions, viz; Southern California, Puget Sound and Willamette Valley, Central California, and North Pacific coast and mountains, and parts of the Great American Desert, the Great Basin, and the Columbia-Fraser Basin. On the basis of types of farming the region is further divisible into almost a hundred farming areas—of which Imperial Valley, Puget Sound Valley, Las Vegas, and Great Basin semideserts are a few random examples.

One has but to recall the history of the Far West to understand its people. The Oregon Trail and California Gold Rush episodes account for the types among early settlers. The Indian and Spanish influences have been relatively strong. It also ranks third among the regions in the number of foreign born inhabitants, the total being over a million. These are well distributed and assimilated with the exception of the approximately 100,000 Orientals. The remainder of the population is made up of immigrants from other states. It has been called the melting pot of native Americans from the various states. It has eight of the ninety-three cities of over 100,000 and stands second among the regions in proportion of urban population with 67.2 percent living in cities.

In its early discovery of gold needing only to be dug and assayed it may be likened to one who falls heir to a great fortune before he comes of age. The region has not squandered this fortune but on the contrary has built up in the setting of its natural resources the highest average standard of living of any place in the world.

As compared to the total for the United States on a percapita basis it produces its share or more of such items as: cattle, butter, chickens, milk, eggs, wheat, forests, and farm income. It has its share or better of railroads, manufacturing establishments, value of manufactured products, developed water power, and petroleum. It also has its share or more of persons gainfully employed, auto sales, radios, and savings. It produces practically no iron ore, corn, or tobacco and less than its share of coal, swine, and cotton.

The area numbers among its natural resources, forests, minerals, precious metals, petroleum, fisheries, water power and productive soils. We might add to this list its harbors, its rivers, climate, and scenery.

There is another type of asset or resource to be found in certain technological developments or human achievements. Under this heading are placed its progressive well supported public schools and universities, its priority in the motion picture industry and the technologies connected with it, and its superior technologies in the growing, packing, and cooperative marketing of certain fruits and vegetables.

While the true picture of this region is indeed one of general excellence reflected in the high standard of living and rich resources, it must not be assumed that the pinnacle of perfection has been attained nor that the region is without its share of problems and responsibilities.

One author has said:

“Here American institutions sharpen into focus so startling as to give the effect, sometimes, of caricature. Here American scholarship and research are at their best, American cults and quasi-religions at their shabby and shallow worst; here America’s indignant soap-boxers and pamphleteers, her bigots self-surrendered to some oversimplified ideal, its scared reactionaries and its grim stand-patters; its baronial aristocracy, its patient poor and its sober, good-natured, self-centered middle class; its promoters, racketeers, opportunists, and politicians; its fagged-out oldsters and its brash, raw youth—What America is, California is, with accents, in *Italics*.”

The fact that a large proportion of the population lives in urban centers gives rise to many problems. Business districts become congested and the poorer groups collect in shanty towns and slum areas. In urban centers there are tendencies toward certain types of crime and other moral pathologies. Effective provision for safety, sanitation, and public health protection is made more difficult by extreme congestion.

Gradual decentralization by spread of conveniences and economic opportunities seems to be desirable. This is only within the power of some group which has an understanding of and some degree of influence over a great number of major factors of the socio-economic structure.

The imposing list of natural resources also carries its share of emergent and evolving problems. First there is the problem of conservation on both an immediate and a long-time basis. Closely interwoven with this problem is that of the optimum de-

velopment of each resource. What the optimum development is must be determined upon the basis of many factors inside and outside the regions.

Again, in the fields of agriculture and industry problems abound. A degree of balance must be maintained between the two. Then there is the problem of preventing the exploitation of labor by owners and of the owners by labor. Tenant farming threatens to become a problem in some agricultural subregions. Corporation farming will bring about its quota of social problems. There is also the problem of determining the optimum regional production for each farm commodity and of regulating quotas equitably. The optimum production will depend in many cases upon interregional factors.

There are numerous other problems of a more or less special nature, such as: race relations and assimilation of immigrants; responsibilities inherent in leadership in the motion picture and radio fields; security for the relatively high proportion of aged people; a more equitable distribution of economic opportunity to reduce the extremes of wealth and poverty.

These are just a few of the problems with which a Far West Regional Planning Council might be expected to deal. To cope effectively with such issues the Council would need a competent technical staff; it would need to be coordinated with other regional councils through a national organization; and it would need to be fed with suggestions and plans from numerous lesser councils and citizens' auxiliaries representing special areas or special phases within the region.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I THE FAR WEST REGION

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XXII.

California and "the Oregon country" have had a most romantic history.

Nevada places in this region mainly because its urban culture on the west is related to the California type.

This region has a wide variety of physical features.

The population has certain distinct characteristics as to origin, age distribution, and outlook.

It is a region of rich natural resources.

The Far West has what is possibly the highest general standard of living of any of the regions.

There are problems of erosion, power development, irrigation, game preservation, conservation of mineral resources, development of industries, metropolitan planning, and many others.

II A PLANNING COMPACT

Regional Planning; Part I: Pacific Northwest, by the National Resources Committee.

The states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana are cooperating in a program of planning on the common problems of the Columbia basin. Here is a factual example of interstate and regional-federal cooperative action. The need for broad scale planning on interstate problems will call for many other such interstate compacts to be formed in the future.

III DEVELOPMENT OF THE OREGON COUNTRY

The Laurels Are Cut Down, by Archie Binns.

A novel which portrays the major developments in the northern part of this region during the past few decades.

The Land is Bright, by Archie Binns.

An earlier era in the development of the Oregon Country.

IV HOMELESS

Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck.

This classic novel is a powerful story of the unspeakable plight of hundreds of thousands of dispossessed farmers from the Dust Bowl. It traces the fortunes of one family who lost their land in Oklahoma and moved to California to get seasonal employment in fields and orchards. The situation depicted here constitutes a major social problem for the regions involved and for the nation.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Bryant, Harold Child. *Outdoor Heritage*. Of the series *California*, edited by John Russel McCarthy. Los Angeles. Powell Publishing Company. (Stanley J. Wilson, Distributor.) 1929. 465 p. Illus.

Scenic and recreational resources of California.

Cendrars, Blaise. *Sutter's Gold*. New York. Blue Ribbon Books. 1931. 179 p.

True story of a German-Swiss immigrant who found gold on his place.

Glasscock, Carl. *The Big Bonanza*. Indianapolis. Bobbs. 1931. 368 p.

Story of the Comstock lode.

Young, G. R. *Days of '49*. Garden City, New York. Doubleday, Doran. 1925. 425 p.

Novel of the gold rush.

PAMPHLETS

National Resources Board. *Inventory of the South Pacific, Pacific, and Great Basin Drainage Areas*. By W. L. Huber. Washington, D. C. National Resources Board. 1935. 50 p. Processed.

Survey of climate, physiography, and water resources, and recommendations for planning.

University of California College of Agriculture. *Economic Problems of California Agriculture*. Bul. 504. Berkeley. University of California. 1930. 78 p.

Recommendations regarding land utilization, farm credit, taxation, marketing, and certain needed adjustments.

University of California College of Agriculture. Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics. *The Place of Agricultural Planning in National Economy*. By J. M. Tinley. Berkeley. University of California. 1935. Unpaged. Mimeographed.

Recommendations as to the curtailment of monopoly and adjustment of the tariffs.

United States Department of Agriculture. Forest Service. *Conditions Influencing Erosion on the Boise River Watershed*. By F. G. Renner. Tech. Bul. No. 528. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1936. 32 p. 5 cents.

The study of a watershed as to causes and prevention of erosion over the entire area.

Washington Agricultural Experiment Station. *Rural Population Trends in Washington*. By Paul H. Landis. Bul. 333, Pullman. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1936. 64 p. Maps. Graphs.

Washington State Planning Council. *Reclamation, A Sound National Policy as Demonstrated by the Yakima Valley*. Olympia. Washington State Planning Council. June, 1936. 60 p. Maps. Tables. Illus.

Discussion of the Yakima project in relation to effect on state and national welfare.

Washington Agricultural Experiment Station. *Migration of Farm Population and Flow of Farm Wealth*. By Fred R. Yoder and A. A. Smick. Bul. No. 315. Pullman. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1935. 24 p. Tables.

Surpluses and shortages in foods and forest products.

PERIODICALS

Leighton, G. R. "Seattle, Washington: the Edge of the Last Frontier." *Harpers*. Vol. 178 (Feb. and March, 1939), 422-440.

Sociological analysis of the city of Seattle.

THE NORTHWEST AND ITS GREAT PLAINS

The Northwestern Region is best characterized as "inland rural". The predominating influence is the semiarid nature of the climate. Rivers are plentiful but most of the area receives less than twenty inches of rain a year. The Northwestern Region embraces nine very large states—Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, the two Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas. In all it covers between a fourth and a third of the total area of the United States.

The major subregions are the Winter Wheat Region, the Spring Wheat Region, the Rocky Mountains, the Dry West, and Great Plains, the Southeastern Intermountain Plateaus, and part of the Great Basin. On more detailed analysis there are found to be no less than 163 distinct farming subregions.

The Northwestern states are relatively young, all having entered the Union since the Civil War. The main source of population stocks has been immigration from other states. It received the rebound from the Far West and the expansion flow from the South and Middle West. The Mormon contingent represents a unique cultural subregion.

A distinctive pattern of culture and a strong regional consciousness have grown out of the long hard struggle with a not too friendly environment. In sharp contrast to the Far West Region next to it, this region has a high percentage of young people in its population and the smallest percentage of city dwellers of any region. Only four of the ninety-three metropolitan centers are in the Northwest.

This region is predominantly agricultural. It is a land of large farms. It ranks first among the regions in the production of wheat, alfalfa hay, beef cattle, and sheep. It ranks second in the number of swine and several other types of live stock but the value per head is not so high as in other regions. The soils are naturally fertile and are highly productive when sufficient water is available. All in all the income per farm worker is highest for the nation.

In some states of this region, notably Colorado, mining is of considerable significance. The value of manufactured products is relatively very low. The industries consist mainly in the pro-

cessing of agricultural products such as the packing of meats and the refining of sugar.

Other resources include great potential water power, forests, and scenery. Yellowstone, Teton, Rocky Mountain, and Glacier National Parks are all in this region, and the scenic resources will justify continued protection and development.

Like the other regions the Northwest has its specific regional problems. Many of these relate to isolation and space rather than congestion. Providing schools, libraries, arts, and many other services in the sparsely populated areas is a difficult problem.

Special technologies relating to the scarcity of water must continue to be developed. The region must plan with the expectation of importing many of the commodities essential to a high standard of living. The industrial structure might be somewhat built up much to the advantage of the region.

In the background there is always the possibility of irrigation on a large scale. If this takes place a high level of living may be maintained or a new culture may spring forth.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I THE NORTHWEST REGION

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XXIII.

Historically this was the last "West."

The level, treeless, semiarid plains caused the settlers to modify their methods of farming, their social, and economic concepts, and their legal institutions.

It is primarily an agricultural region.

Manufacturing consists almost entirely in processing farm products.

The region offers extraordinary recreational facilities.

Its problems include water conservation and use, providing social services in isolated areas, proper land utilization, and conservation of scenic resources.

II GREAT OPEN SPACES

The Great Plain, by W. P. Webb.

Shows how the development of culture of the Great Plains was influenced by the physical features. Shows influence of the Indians, the Spanish, and the cattle kings. The influence of physical factors on legal concepts is illustrated by the cases of fencing laws and riparian rights. The physiographic features also affect literature.

III LOOKING AHEAD

The Future of the Great Plains, by the Great Plains Committee.

Comprehensive study of population, land use, attitudes, capital and credit, legal problems, and education for conservation in the Great Plains area. Also includes a program of adjustment.

IV STRUGGLE WITH ENVIRONMENT

Free Land, by Rose Wilder Lane.

This novel is a best seller. It tells the story of a young man who moved from Minnesota in 1880 to take up free land in Dakota. Historical accuracy and realistic descriptions make the work a valuable document of the type of struggle that went on in the Great Plains in that era.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Bojer, Johan. *The Emigrants*. New York. Century. 1925. 351 p.
Story of Norwegian immigrants in Dakota.

Davis, C. B. *Nebraska Coast*. New York. Farrar and Rinehart. 1939.
\$2.50. 423 p.

A family moves from the Erie Canal to Nebraska in the 1860s.

Evans, John Henry. *The Story of Utah, the Beehive State*. New York.
Macmillan. 1933. 445 p. Illus.

Covers the history, agriculture, industry, and problems of Utah.

Roe, Wellington. *Tree Falls South*. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons.
1937. 241 p.

Dust Bowl problems brought out through story of farm families.

Winther, Sophus Keith. *This Passion Never Dies*. New York. Macmillan. 1938.

Third novel of series on Danish family in Nebraska brings them through the depression.

PAMPHLETS

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station. *Types of Farming in Kansas*.
By J. A. Hodges, F. F. Elliott, and W. E. Grimes. Bul. 251. Manhattan. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1930. 112 p. Tables. Graphs.

Discusses types of farming in different areas in Kansas.

North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. *Rural Changes in Western North Dakota*. By E. A. Willson, H. C. Hoffsommer, and Alva H. Benton. Bul. 214. Fargo. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1928. 110 p. Maps. Graphs.

A study of farming and farm migration in western North Dakota.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service, Region Nine. *Soil and Water Conservation in the Northern Great Plains*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1937. 19 p. Illus. 10 cents.

Illustrated report on erosion control in Great Plains area.

THE SOUTHWEST AND ITS TEXAS

Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona make up the Southwestern Region. It covers nearly twenty percent of the area of the nation and has about seven percent of the people.

The dominating factors of the Southwestern Region might be said to be its dynamic quality, its newness and antiquity, the dry climate, and the Spanish-Mexican influence. Its coastal exposure affords an ocean outlet which is convenient for the growing Pan American trade.

The major subregions are Lower Rio Grande Valley, and parts of the dry west and Great Plains, the Southwestern Intermon-tane Plateaus, and the Great American Desert. There are eighty-eight special farm areas.

Texas entered the Union in 1845 but was already old as an organized state before that time. But the other three states of this group have joined the Union since the turn of the century. Texas was peopled primarily from the Southeast, and the Southern influence is still apparent. In the Oklahoma land rush people from many states took part. The original Spanish influence is deeply rooted and is constantly kept alive by the Mexican neighbor and by Mexican immigrants.

Of the nine million people of the region more than one million are of Mexican and Indian origin and another million are negroes. Still the region has seventy-five percent native white.

Here again we find a rather definite culture and a regional consciousness. We must characterize the culture as "emergent". The region has had phenomenal growth and development in the past twenty-five years. There is an urban trend in spite of all the space and variety of agricultural possibilities.

There are many indices to indicate its kinship to the Southeast. It has low percapita wealth and income, low farm income, low educational indices in general, and the mixed blessing of cotton. The Southwest is primarily agricultural though the industrial index is higher than that of the Northwest.

Its agriculture is characterized by variety. Cotton is the major crop and will probably remain so. Wheat, other grains, and sorghum are produced in large quantities. The region stands high in the production of pecans, fruits, and vegetables, and pro-

duces one-third of the world's rose bushes. It is still a prominent factor in the production of cattle and sheep.

This region produces considerably more than half of the nation's petroleum. Sulphur and other minerals are extracted on a large scale. There are several deep-water ports on its coastline and shipping runs into big figures.

Recreational areas and scenery have hardly been rated at their true value in America because every region has a share for local consumption. But this region in its Colorado Canyon and Carlsbad Cavern, Petrified Forests, and the like, provides opportunities along this line not to be duplicated anywhere else in the world.

There are great possibilities for large scale dry farming of cotton in all these states. There is also the possibility of establishing cultures built upon irrigation.

The region like all others is confronted by specific problems of a regional nature.

Maintaining justice for racial and national minorities is one problem. The conservation of its mineral resources is another. The area could profit by increased industrialization; if this is done there will be the problem of preventing the evils of congestion, exploitation, and other cultural pathologies that have resulted from industrialization elsewhere. Besides the problem of guarding against congestion it also has the problem of servicing the isolated areas with governmental and other social functions.

But the region is young, there is a spirit of zest, and a new culture is taking shape in the New Southwest.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I THE SOUTHWEST REGION

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XXIV.

Texas has had a long and interesting history; the other three states of this region entered the Union after 1900.

The Spanish-Mexican influence is strong in the Southwest culture.

The agriculture of the region is varied.

Mineral resources include petroleum and sulphur.

The region is undergoing a period of growth and development.

There are problems of industrial development, dry farming, technologies, mineral conservation, minority groups, cooperative action with other regions.

II OLD YET NEW

The Great Southwest, by C. O. Borg.

This is a sweeping picture of the Southwest from the early days of Spanish settlement up to the present time. It includes all of "our" Southwest with some fringes of the states to the North.

It is interesting to see that this is both the oldest and the newest of the regions.

III LITERATURE AND ART

Southwest Heritage, by Major, Mabel, and Smith, Rebecca.

This is a bibliography and anthology of the literature, art, drama, and music of the Southwest.

IV PROMOTION

The Wind Blew West, by Edwin M. Lanham.

Story of the development of a locality in Texas. It exposes the fakes and disappointments in the enterprise and the differing viewpoints of the white and Indian residents.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Barker, Ruth Laughlin. *Caballeros*. Appleton and Co. 1931. 1931 p. Illus.

Life in Santa Fe showing Spanish influence.

Cather, Willa Sibert. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. New York. Knopf. 1927. 303 p.

The scene is laid in New Mexico about 1848.

Ferber, Edna. *Cimarron*. New York. Doubleday. 1930. 388 p.

The story of Oklahoma.

Krey, Laura. *And Tell of Time*. Boston. Houghton Mifflin. 1938. 712 p.

A plantation in Texas during Reconstruction.

La Farge, Oliver. *Laughing Boy*. Boston. Houghton Mifflin. 1929. 302 p.

Modern Indian life in the Southwest.

Oskison, John Milton. *Brothers Three*. New York. Macmillan Co. 1935. 448 p.

A story of Indians and whites in Oklahoma.

PAMPHLETS

Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station. *The Natural Vegetation of Arizona*. By A. A. Nichol. Tech. Bul. 68. Tucson. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1937. 41 p. Illus.

Department of the Interior. National Park Service. Texas. *Report on Twenty Texas Parks; Activity and Use Study*. Austin. National Park Service, Region III. 1938. 38 p. Tables. Mimeographed.

Survey of the use of parks in Texas as a basis for planning and operation of parks.

Federal Writers' Project. Works Progress Administration. American Guide Series. *The Navaho* (Arizona). Flagstaff, Arizona. Arizona State Teachers College. No. dat. 21 p. 50 cents.

Customs and legends of the Navahos.

New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station. *Farm Organization Practices and Costs of Producing Crops in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District of New Mexico*. By A. L. Walker and P. W.

Cockerhill. Bul. No. 215. State College. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1933. 71 p. Tables. Graphs.

New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station. *A Two-Year Analysis of Farm Organization Practices in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District; Preliminary Report.* By P. W. Cockerhill and A. L. Walker. Bul. No. 196. State College. Agricultural Experiment Station. 1931. 30 p. Tables.

Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station. *Attitudes of Oklahoma Farmers Toward the Oklahoma Cotton Growers' Association.* By W. W. Fetrow. Experiment Station Bul. No. 178. Stillwater. Agricultural Experiment Station. No date. 60 p. Maps. Graphs.

Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station. *Oklahoma Farm Prices.* By L. S. Ellis. (Supplement to *Current Farm Economics; Oklahoma.*) Stillwater. Agricultural Experiment Station. No date. 94 p. Tables.

Prices of things bought contrasted with prices of things sold by Oklahoma farmers from 1910 to 1933.

Texas Planning Board. *A Review of Texas Forestry and its Industries.* Austin. Texas Planning Board. 1937. 39 p. Graphs.

TOOLS FOR REGIONALISM

How may we expect the new regional philosophy to take form and secure action?

There is a great deal of regional thinking and development going on at the present time. Thousands of localities are constantly improving their environment for better human living in keeping with their cultural concepts. In towns and cities there is an increasing amount of zoning, thinning out of the more congested areas, and installation of municipal improvements of various kinds. In rural sections we find library extension, public health services, and various cooperative enterprises on the increase. Large metropolitan centers have found it necessary to work out plans extending far beyond their city limits and projecting years into the future.

On a little larger scale we find that virtually all of the states have policy commissions or planning boards. State parks and forests are maintained. In many cases there are intrastate districts set up to deal with problems extending over several counties but a relatively small part of the state area. On the other hand, interstate compacts have been formed in a number of cases to effect joint legal action on matters involving two or more adjoining states.

A great many federal activities are conducted on a regional basis. The restoration of local historical monuments combines local pride, interest, and initiative with federal planning and financial aid. Programs for rehabilitation or resettlement of farms and conservation of soils are examples of federal activities with regional angles. In fact, many of the federal funds are administered on a regional principle: distribution on a basis of need and use in accordance with local tradition. Again the A.A.A. farm quota plan is largely regional in nature in as much as it designates quota by areas.

Charles W. Elliott II sums up these movements in these words:

"From small beginnings—from experience in our own backyards—people have grown accustomed to the idea of arranging what we have for better use and more pleasure. We have found that our best use of our own 'backyard' depended on what our neighbors did with theirs, and so we got into planning groups of houses,

subdivisions or neighborhoods. We found our neighborhoods were not the only ones in the city—we must have city planning. We found that the developments in one city affected its neighbor, and so, we have gone from linking the relationship between city and city, to county and county, from state to state, to region to region, and so to national planning.”

With all this evidence of the recognition of regional factors and of the growing disposition to plan we still can sense the accidental or incidental nature of the whole planning set-up. We still need to ask: How shall we provide for the expression of local initiative and differences in matters that must be worked out cooperatively over wide areas? And lastly, with what machinery shall regional programs be coordinated within the federal framework and be properly related to the national policy?

These questions are not hard to answer. We must recall that there is much planning already under way and most of the basic legal questions have been settled. Planning agencies are already established in all places and on all levels. The great need is for rounding out the system and arranging for better coordination. This will require no complicated set-up, no drastic changes in government.

In their book, *American Regionalism*, Odum and Moore describe a very simple and practical set-up for the correlation and implementation of planning throughout the nation. The set-up as proposed does not require the undoing of any of the present planning structure nor any change in the American System of doing things. The following description is quoted and adapted from *American Regionalism*.

“... , there would be first the national planning board, second the state planning boards, and third, a series of major regional planning boards, working in group interrelationship and co-operation with special technical, subregional planning groups. These in turn would, of course, work with local planning boards such as city, county, and the subregional advisory boards within the several states.

“For the national planning board, the following general specifications would seem to be appropriate within the American framework and system. Legislation creating the board as recommended by the President would be passed regularly by Congress, and hence would reflect a referendum to the people. The board

would be entirely expert and advisory, with no executive or administrative power, and would report directly to the President. It might well consist of seven members, of whom three would be full-time, salaried experts chosen from the fields of social science, engineering, and public affairs, with salaries adequate to secure the ablest specialists in the field. The other four members would be selected from the nation at large in the general fields of politics, the press, agriculture, industry, and would receive only a per diem. An adequate staff would be provided, including executive assistants and associates, research specialists, draftsmen, and secretaries. The functions of such a board would in general be threefold. The first would be to act in the service of the President and of the Congress and provide information, facts, planning programs in special projects initiated by the President or Congress. The second function would be to carry on a continuous social inventory of the nation somewhat after the manner of *Recent Social Trends*, so that there would be an authentic research-planning group working all the time, not only in designing and planning research, but in utilization of the vast research agencies and statistics of the present federal organizations and departments. The third function would be to make contacts and co-operate with the regions and states, and to carry on adult education and promotion and continuous referendum and publicity to the people. Some members of the planning board would continuously be sensing the various situations in the different states and regions, as well as interpreting the nation to the President and Congress to the nation. It would be understood that research and plans would result in recommendation, action upon which would, however, always come through the regular administrative, judicial, or legislative function of government, and through the several regional and state agencies within which they were appropriate.

"The second type of planning board in logical order is the state planning board, the general specifications and functions of which would in analogous measure tend to follow the general provisions set forth in the national planning board, except that all members of the state planning board would be voluntary and non-salaried. Each state planning board would, however, have in miniature an expert staff consisting of an executive official, research and planning associates and assistants, draftsmen, and secretarial staff. The state board would be official in the sense that it was insti-

tuted by an act of the Legislature, subject to the Governor's office, and with minimum appropriation for organization and for matching moneys with the national planning board. In general, the number of members should be the same as for the national, namely, seven, of whom not more than four should ever coincide with the official departmental heads of state government. The functions of the state planning board would again tend to be of the same threefold objectives as the national planning board; that is, its first function would be to assist the Governor in the work of planning and directing his state program. The second function would be to carry on a continuous program of study and planning for the state itself. The third would be to co-operate on the one hand with city and county planning boards within the state and regional and federal planning boards outside the state."

The third major type of planning board is the regional board, which should be less formal and less active than the national and state boards. It should consist of one ex-officio member from each state planning board, one representative from the national board, two representatives chosen from the region at large and one ex-officio representative from each specialized or subregional planning group already at work in the regions.

Thus in the Northeastern region the board would have thirteen ex-officio state members, plus two at large, plus a representative from the national council, plus a special representative from the existent New England planning board.

Again in the Southeastern region there would be eleven state members, two at large, one from the national council and one each from the T.V.A. and any other established subregional planning groups.

"Such an arrangement would be flexible enough to allow adequate co-operation with the proposed seven river valley authorities and would not conflict with them. It would also give an adequate number of members to insure a satisfactory quorum, would give ample subgeographic representation, and would give adequate provisions for co-ordinating the work and keeping a clearing house of regional information. The function of the regional planning board would thus be even more advisory and general than the others, still following the general threefold objectives; that is, it would first of all focus upon its regional problems and planning, serving particularly as a buffer between the national planning board and the state planning board. In

the second place, it would seek to keep continuously a preview of facts and situations and a preview of trends in the region with a view to co-ordinating the work of the states with that of the nation. In the third place, it would have the peculiar task of co-operating with state and subregional planning boards. For such a function, the staff of the regional planning board would be relatively small, including a permanent executive official and a minimum staff of research and planning associates. Such a planning board would be primarily one of co-ordination and would meet perhaps not more than twice a year. Under its auspices, however, might be held various regional conferences and sub-regional group conferences for co-ordination of the many state and national and district advisory efforts.

"Although these three major planning boards constitute the backbone of the national-regional procedure, it is assumed that city, county, and districts within each individual state would provide for such planning boards and services as either the local, state, or regional associations might promote or encourage. The provisions of national and city planning boards are being more or less standardized, so that the best that can be done is to select continuously the most satisfactory type of board and procedure. The other two types of planning boards would naturally be combined; that is, instead of arbitrarily assuming and attempting to provide for a county planning board for each county, manifestly the most effective plan would be to set up a series of contiguous counties with which to comprehend the problems and programs of particular areas of the state and to join forces in a special program of research and planning over a period of six to twelve years. Such a program would comprehend the maximum advantages which co-ordination of federal, state, local, of official and voluntary educational planning programs will provide. Such a program would constitute experimentation and exploration from which ultimately the best results and plans for each county might be obtained. At the same time, it would pool resources to the best possible advantage."

If such a system should be instituted all of the present state and local planning agencies would keep right on planning. The work on special areas such as the Tennessee Valley would go on undisturbed,—even be benefitted by the coordination with other activities. Metropolitan and county planning would proceed as usual with a possible implementation from regional or federal

sources. All present pacts and agreements would stand as long as desirable. New local units would continue to spring up wherever the need was realized.

The regional councils would fill a gap between the present local planning and federal administration.

The national council would cooperate with regional councils in research and recommendations. It would carry on a program of research and investigation now left mainly to chance, to private organizations, or to a multiplicity of congressional committees, bureaus and overlapping research agencies within the nation.

It is not claimed for regional planning that it will work any miracles or transform the nation into a Utopia. It is entirely reasonable, however, to believe it might be the means of accomplishing a great deal in the way of co-ordination, economy, and social progress.

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I TOOLS FOR REGIONALISM—PLANNING

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XI.

The set-up and operation of the system of councils such as suggested in *American Regionalism* might be best understood or discussed from an outline such as the one below.

The National Council

Legal status

Membership

Experts

Leaders

Staff

Functions

Conducting research

Furnishing information and plans

Maintaining contact with public

The State Council

Legal status

Membership

Functions

Relation to intrastate councils

Relation to Regional Council

The Regional Councils

Informal nature

Membership

Functions

Relation to state councils

Relation to special or subregional councils

Relation to national council

The Special councils

T.V.A. Authority

Others that might be formed for special areas of special problems

The Local councils

County or district councils

Metropolitan or urban planning councils.

II REGIONAL-NATIONAL PLANNING

Regional Factors in National Planning, by National Resources Committee.

It discusses the place of regions in planning for the nation.

Reviews the history and status of the regional planning movement up to 1935 as seen by the National Resources Committee.

It shows that political boundaries do not coincide with regional boundaries and therefore the states cannot cope individually with certain problems.

Discusses the use of the interstate compact to secure legal powers in cooperative action.

III URBAN PLANNING

Your City, by E. L. Thorndike.

Cities of the United States "differ widely in almost all of the features or qualities which are important for human living."

A "goodness score" based upon 37 basic indices concerned with health, recreation, education, economic and social conditions, creature comforts, and other such items, is developed for use as a yardstick with which to measure cities. Prevalence of diseases, homicides, infant mortality, and child workers would be among factors that would tend to lower the score. Decent housing, recreational programs, healthful conditions would raise the score.

Improvement of the peoples' spiritual quality and their income promises most for bettering the community.

IV RURAL PLANNING

Recent Trends in Rural Planning, by William E. Cole and Hugh P. Crowe.

Rural planning aims at individual adequacy, on the one hand, and social effectiveness on the other.

Rural planning is a part of general comprehensive planning.

Rural planning must be on a sound economic basis.

The only defense for planning is the contribution it may make to the advancement of human welfare.

With more than half the farmers tenants in some areas and with tenancy on the increase in almost all regions, the problem must be given serious attention.

Provision for education, government, recreation, health, library service, and extension of conveniences must be made on a comprehensive scale.

V PLANNING THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

God's Valley, by Willson Whitman.

This is a sympathetic presentation of what many people consider to be the most realistic example of regional planning in America.

True regional planning rises spontaneously in the region.

The thoughtful reader will see to what extent the T.V.A. project is local and to what extent it is national.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Bauer, Catherine. *Modern Housing*. Boston. Houghton-Mifflin. 1934. 331 p. Illus.

Shows the weakness in our present system. Analyzes present and future standards.

Duffus, R. L. *Mastering a Metropolis: Planning the Future of the New York Region*. New York. Harpers. 1930.

Based on surveys of the city and its environs.

McNamara, Katherine. *Harvard City Planning Studies*. Vol. X. *Bibliography of Planning, 1928-1935*. Cambridge. Harvard University Press. 1936. 232 p.

Covers all types of planning.

Works Progress Administration. *Index of Research Projects*. Vol. II. Washington. W.P.A. 1939. 208 p.

Covers research projects undertaken by planning organizations.

Wright, Henry. *Rehousing Urban America*. New York. Columbia University Press. 1935. 168 p. Tables. Diagrams. Illus.

Considers housing to be the focal point in the rehabilitation of cities.

PAMPHLETS

National Association of Housing Officials. *A Housing Program for the United States*. Pub. 48. Chicago, Ill. Public Administration Service. 1935. 41 p. 50 cents.

National Resources Board. *Report of Land Planning; Part XI: Recreational Use of Land in the United States*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 280 p. Maps. Graphs. Tables. \$1.25.

National Resources Committee. *The Future of State Planning*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 117 p. Bibliographies. 25 cents.

National Resources Committee. *Planning Our Resources*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 35 p. 10 cents.

Tells what planning is and what it can do.

National Resources Committee. *Report on Water Pollution*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1935. 82 p.

National Resources Committee. *Regional Planning*. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1938. 28 p. Maps. 10 cents.

The University of Wisconsin. *Regional Approach to the Conservation of Natural Resources*. The University of Wisconsin Science Inquiry Publication VIII. Madison. University of Wisconsin Press. 1938. 27 p.

Public Administration Service. *Planning for the Small American City; An Outline of Principles and Procedure Especially Applicable to the*

City of Fifty Thousand or Less. By Russell Van Nest Black and Mary Hedges Black. Pub. 32. Chicago. Public Administration Service. 1933. 90 p. Maps. Illus.

United States Department of Labor. Children's Bureau. *Development of a Leisure-Time Program in Small Cities and Towns.* Pub. 241. Washington, D. C. U. S. Government Printing Office. 1937. 13 p.

TOWARD NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Students of our political economy and travelers over the nation alike are often constrained to stop and ask: "What holds the nation together?" "With all its diversity how does it escape being broken up into several autonomous states?" One has expressed it: "Just how united are these United States?"

It is not only a question of a real or political unity but also one of the integration and stability of the society itself. With such strong opposition of interests and such tremendous forces involved on both sides in various conflicts, what is there to prevent violent dislocations—even disruption.

We can all look back at the recent depression and wonder about its causes, about what should have been done, and whether we are headed blindly for another such cataclysm in the future. No lengthy description of the early 1930's is necessary. We need only to remind ourselves of a few major points.

Here was the richest nation in the world with one-half its population on a subsistence standard of living. People were being told they could not have bread because there was too much wheat; could not have jobs, though there was work to be done on every hand. One-fourth of the people were virtually on "charity" yet somewhere in the picture there were billions of dollars in uncirculated money. Even the "rich" individuals and corporations who had billions of surplus wealth were impotent to use it or to let others use it. Farms were being sold for debt though they were as capable as ever of producing goods that people needed. Millions of children, born and unborn, like the countless victims of war, awaited the crippling aftermath of this devastating peace-time crisis. Everywhere there was a breakdown in distribution, consumption, and standards.

On every hand there was confusion and despair. Thousands were the causes suggested; thousands the schemes proposed. New patterns of conflict arose. Seriously people were asking: "Will civilization survive?" "Which road shall we take?" "Who shall lead the way?"

Now this debacle did not develop over night. It came about as a logical sequence of cause and effect. It reflected unevenness of regional development and imbalance among the forces of the

socio-economic structure. It reflected the artificiality of civilization developed under the modern technological and highly urban pattern.

Whatever is done to mend the effects of the last disruption or to prevent the occurrence of another must likewise be a realistic growth through orderly process of people and their institutions within the living geography of their regions and in harmony with their natural heritage. The sudden imposition of multiple schemes by individuals temporarily in power cannot substitute for sound theoretical and administrative measures safeguarded by constitutional arrangements within the framework of democracy.

Each problem and each situation develops in its own setting as a cumulative product of cause and effect. Each problem is a constituent part of a larger whole and related to other parts of the complex. Therefore these problems cannot be dealt with by single-track solutions but only by processes of adaptation and adjustment. To secure results these adaptations and adjustments must be planned and the plans must be coordinated with changes taking place in other phases of the economy.

As was emphasized earlier in this study, all cultures and civilizations evolve from regional beginnings. They can be understood and directed only through the regional approach. Thus regionalism, implemented by democratic planning, is the means to equilibrium and organic union.

Regionalism can accomplish a new evaluation of the various resources and peoples. It can achieve a preservation of local autonomy and promote understanding and tolerance among regions. It can reverse the present trend toward interstate trade barriers and move toward freer interregional trade. In short, it may be the means of capitalizing the diversities of the nation toward the building of a richer and more abundant economy.

Again, regional planning opens the way to a better use of our natural resources. It contemplates the highest development of all the resources of a region. The rapidly changing technologies which have had such a part in disturbing our society, can be broadened in their application and made to benefit larger numbers of people. Planning will encourage the application of intelligence and effort to the discovery of social technologies in the fields of distribution, consumption, and adaptation.

Sections cannot deal successfully with their difficulties by acting on the assumption that they are isolated areas with separate interests. Nor can the problems of society be handled as though each one is unrelated to the other phases of society. Because of hundreds of conflicting factors, the best solution of a problem is usually a matter of the best adjustment that can be made under the circumstances.

No realistic person can talk of abolishing conflict. Conflicts between group and group, section and section, ideology and ideology, will always arise under any social order. But it is possible to reduce tensions by early diagnosis and planned action. Some comprehensive machinery is needed whereby these conflicts can be resolved without serious dislocations of the general economy. This is the work of regional planning.

Regional planning, as the means of adjustment and balance, is the key to continual integration.

Are we without a frontier?

Look once again across the broad expanse of America, from lakes to gulf, from ocean to ocean. See it as a land, a people, and a culture.

Is there nothing new awaiting discovery, exploration, conquest? Are there not abundant resources that cry for development? Is it not possible for us to arrange the things we have for a more secure and a richer life?

We are facing a front of common problems that will reawaken our 'pioneer' spirit, challenge our social ingenuity, and absorb unlimited energies in worthy action.

We are on the New Frontier!

SUBJECTS FOR STUDY

I TOWARD NATIONAL REINTEGRATION

American Regionalism, by H. W. Odum and H. E. Moore. Chapter XXV.

The recent crisis revealed some weaknesses in our social and political economy.

It left our nation torn and full of fears for the future.

There was an imbalance between the world of technology and the world of men.

There were numerous other cases of imbalance, inequality, lack of development.

Regionalism may be seen as the key to restored equilibrium and balance; as the symbol and reality of the new frontier of American life.

II WHICH WAY IS FORWARD?

American Social Problems, by Howard W. Odum.

This book may be looked upon, in a sense, as being a summary of the problems raised in this study course and as a hint toward their solution.

How can our natural resources be conserved and utilized to the best social advantage?

Shall science and technology be used by one group to exploit another, or shall they be harnessed by the agencies of democracy and made to contribute to the security and abundance of living for all?

Are regional differences and disparities to be overlooked or shall they be made the basis of better solution of our problems and a stronger union?

Shall the young, or the old, or the weak, or the handicapped be neglected in a world of rapidly expanding technology and increasing speed and bigness?

What of the world outlook? Can civilization and democracy be saved? Which way is forward?

III SECTIONS TODAY

Divided We Stand, by Walter P. Webb.

"The closing frontier and the growing corporation—both synonymous with decreasing common opportunity—are offered as the mated keys to the recent crisis of the modern world's first great democracy." (From the Introduction.)

IV A NEW START

America Begins Again, by Katherine Glover.

A very readable account of recent developments in resource utilization.

Additional Reading:

BOOKS

Beard, Charles A. and Mary R. *America in Midpassage*. New York. Macmillan. 1939. 997 p.

Discussion of problems brought to light by the present crisis.

Bowman, Isaiah. *Geography in Relation to the Social Studies*. New York. Scribner's. 1934. 382 p. Maps.

Study of the bearings of geography on social and economic problems.

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